



**Workers
find home
cooking**

Pages 16-17



**A town
reinvented
in folk art**

Pages 20-21

Longtime correspondent, Mao reporter dies at 93

John Roderick, a
China correspondent
for US media, has
died at age 93.

He covered major
political figures,
including Chairman
Mao Zedong and
other Communist
leaders while living
with them in their
cave headquarters in
the mid-1940s.

Page 5



Xinhua Photo



CFP Photo

**Beslan
survivors
seek
TCM aid**

Nine survivors of
the Beslan hostage
crisis are in China
for treatment.

The Russian chil-
dren are in Sanya,
Hainan Province, to
undergo traditional
medical procedures.

Page 8

**New docs for
foreign brides,
grooms**

Page 2

**Gov set to trim
fat, reorganize**

Page 4

**Rich cry taxes
too high**

Page 7

**Get a piece of
Parisian life**

Page 11

Liquids to be forbidden on China flights

By Han Manman

The General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) may issue a ban to prevent passengers who carry liquids from boarding Chinese flights following the discovery of "suspicious liquids" on a China Southern Airlines flight last week.

A CAAC spokesman said details of the ban are under discussion, but would not name a date when the ban may take effect.

Under current regulations, passengers on domestic flights may carry liquids – excluding alcohol – which do not exceed one

liter. Any excess liquids must be in checked baggage. Even before a ban takes effect, passengers can expect more strict baggage inspection, a CAAC official said.

CAAC wrote on its Web site Monday that "China Southern Airlines flight CZ6901 from Urumqi to Beijing had boarded passengers who possessed suspicious liquids."

The airline landed in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, to evacuate passengers, according to the Web site notice. No other details were given.

Shanghai's *Oriental Morning Post* reported that the

substances in question were believed to be flammable.

"According to sources, flammable substances were found in the toilet of the plane. At least two passengers have been detained for questioning," it said, without naming sources.

Nur Bekri, chairman of the Xinjiang regional government, said Sunday that the flight was diverted to Lanzhou because "some people were attempting to create a disaster."

All passengers and crew were evacuated safely, he said. Nur offered no other details, but said

an investigation was ongoing. "We can be sure they intended to crash the plane," he said.

Regional police in Xinjiang recently cracked down on a terrorist lair, shooting two terrorists and arresting 15 others on January 27, said Wang Lequan, Secretary of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional Committee of the CPC.

The terrorists were organized under the banner of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement and, based on weaponry and materials seized in the January raid, their aim was to disrupt the summer Olympic Games, Nur said.

No restrictions on migrants during Olympics

By Huang Daohen

Beijing will not shut out its migrants during the Olympic Games in August, Ji Lin, vice mayor of Beijing, said at the first session of the 11th National People's Congress.

Ji said the city was tightening its control on the influx of rural migrants and has stepped up its inspection of temporary residential permits among domestic migrants.

"But during the Olympics, we will absolutely not restrict outsiders from entering the capital," he said.

"The permits are quite necessary," Ji said, adding that the permits were required to enhance management and provide services for the migrants.

For the wanderers and beggars, the government will adopt an "assistance" policy instead of chasing them away, Ji said, but without elaborating on what assistance measures will entail.

Automobiles registered outside Beijing will be under the same regulations as local vehicles during the Olympics, the vice mayor said. Trucks will be diverted at the peripheral areas.

Foreign tourists who violate Chinese law during the Olympics will be free from prosecution for minor crimes if they cause no harm to society, Mu Ping, Beijing Municipal People's General Procuratorate, said.

"Foreigners are equally applicable to the law of relative not to be prosecuted," Mu said.

This year there will be a huge numbers of foreigners visiting Beijing. "Whether they are foreigners or local Chinese people, there is no difference in the law of prosecution. So long as it (violation) is very slight and the parties tend to have reconciliation, they won't be prosecuted," Mu said.

Mu said all evidence for Olympic-related law suits must be reported immediately level by level.

Security is among the top concerns with the Olympics approaching. Volunteers are set to patrol the streets and more than 80,000 police and security personnel will be on duty at contest venues, the *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

Guards arrive in Beijing for Olympic duty



Jilin Province sent 200 security guards to Beijing, Tuesday. The guards, with an average age of 23, were selected from 400 candidates. They will serve in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics if they pass more strict examination.

CFP Photo

China to issue lottery management regulation

By Han Manman

The government has published a draft management regulation on lotteries and is asking for public opinion. The move follows reports of addiction to the often high-stakes game that has driven people into bankruptcy and suicide.

Public opinion will be accepted until March 28, and the regulations will be issued later this year. Public hearings will be held before new lotteries are deployed.

"The regulation will enhance supervision of the fast-growing lottery industry and stamp out fraud, which has been on the rise since the country launched its first lottery two decades ago," a report on the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council Web site said.

If issued, the rules would be China's first national regulation

on lotteries since the government gave lotteries the green light in 1987, it said.

Currently, the government has a provisional regulation on the management of lottery distribution and sales. It was issued by the Ministry of Finance in 2002.

According to the proposed draft, no individual, organization or government department can sell lottery tickets without permission from the State Council. The China Welfare Lottery Administrative Center and the sports lottery administrative center of the China General Administration of Sport, both state-run, are the only two legitimate lottery outlets.

The draft requires lottery vendors to keep the identities of winners confidential. It also demands transparency of money taken in and how it is spent on a regular

basis. The draft stipulates that people cannot buy lottery tickets with credit cards and bans minors from participating.

Individuals or government departments violating the regulations by selling lotteries unauthorized by the State Council will be fined and face criminal charges. Any gains will be confiscated.

Lotteries have generated huge economic and social returns in China over the past two decades, but with many tragedies.

A marketing manager lost 1.8 million yuan in nine months of playing the lottery, which pushed his wife to commit suicide last December.

In another case, a middle school teacher was arrested after withdrawing 410,000 yuan from 25 credit cards to buy lottery tickets earlier this week.

More specific documents required for foreigner marriages

By Zhang Dongya

Foreigners who intend to register for marriage in China must provide a certificate of single status with the word "single," "unmarried" or "divorced and unmarried" following a notice released by the Ministry of Civil Affairs Wednesday.

Different countries issue various forms of the certificate, including the Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage (CNI) or the Statement of No Record instead of an explicit statement of "single" or "unmarried."

According to the Regulations of Marriage Registration, foreign nationals who apply for marriage registration in China must provide a certificate of marital status. The Chinese government does not believe the CNI or Statement of No Record show the same meaning unless a country's embassy announces it to be the same.

CNI or the Statement of No Record issued by embassies can be used as the qualified certificates of single status under the condition of their embassies announcing to China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, according to the notice.

The French embassy has announced its CNI or the Statement of No Record are the same in validity and functionality as China's certificate of single status. Currently, only a CNI or the Statement of No Record issued by the French embassy is accepted.

Foreigners who intend to register their marriage in China must hold the following certificates and documents on application: a current passport and a certificate of marital status.

A divorced person shall be required to show his divorce certificate.

If the previous partner is deceased, an original copy of the partner's death certificate is required.

Brief news

CPI hits 12-year high

The consumer price index (CPI), a main indicator of inflation, rose 8.7 percent in February over the same time last year for the highest monthly increase in nearly 12 years, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Tuesday.

Blns used to narrow health gap

China is determined to improve its grassroots health care system with a bigger budget. As much as 20 billion yuan will be allocated starting this year to upgrade township health institutions, deputy health minister Gao Qiang said.

Exclusive lanes for Olympic Games

Beijing will follow Athens and Sydney to assign exclusive lanes for Olympic vehicular traffic during the 16-day summer event as the capital prepares for the arrival of 10,500 foreign athletes and 550,000 overseas tourists.

(By Han Manman)

Experts say snow leopard not a paper tiger

By Zhang Dongya

The video of a snow leopard, released in the International Conference on Snow Leopard Conservancy on Sunday, was viewed with suspicious, especially with the recent South China tiger fakes on audience members' minds.

Huang Yong, deputy director of Agriculture and Forest Bureau in Shiqu, Sichuan Province, said he had not recorded the video when interviewed by *Chengdu Evening News* on Wednesday.

"The video was not shot by me, but I assure you it is authentic," Huang told a *Chengdu Evening News* reporter. The

original report that said he shot the video was probably a misunderstanding, he said.

The 11-minute video was captured with a family's digital video recorder last October. The video is bad quality. The shaky and blurry picture shows a snow leopard about to fight three yaks. Experts from 15 countries have seen the video and agree it is authentic.

Snow leopards are nocturnal animals and only hunt at night. Experts guess this snow leopard was weak and hungry forcing it to come out during the day. An international snow leopard expert said its sluggish movements and

drooped tail suggest that it was hurt or sick.

"It is no doubt it's an authentic film and a real snow leopard. The bad quality is because the video was shot in the high mountain area and at a distance," David Marlon, co-chairman of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) said.

After the South China tiger photo scandal, the video of a snow leopard was immediately suspect. The video was reported to Sichuan forestry department last year and was authenticated. To avoid the media firestorm surrounding the tiger, it was

kept secret.

There have been reports of wild snow leopards living in Xinjiang, Tibet and other regions, but without video of their activities. This video would be the first of a wild snow leopard in China if it is proved authentic.

The snow leopard was found in a provincial-level nature reserve for white-tipped deer in Sichuan Province. Reserves for snow leopards have not been established yet in the area.

The snow leopard is listed as an endangered animal, with about 6,000 remaining in the world. In China, they are mainly distributed through Tibet and Xinjiang.

Bjork's outburst leaves agency stranded

By Zhang Dongya

Icelandic singer Bjork's shots of "Tibet! Tibet!" at the end of "Declare Independence," the final song of her Shanghai concert, has had the opposite effect the singer intended: her audience grew angry and immediately filed out of the stadium.

Bjork performed at Shanghai International Gymnastic Center as part of her world tour on Sunday, March 2, where she closed with a song not approved by the Ministry of Culture.

A statement by China's Culture Ministry said, the performance "not only broke Chinese law and hurt the feelings of the Chinese people, but also went against the professional code of an artist."

It also said it will tighten its control over foreign performers in response to her outburst.

Most people think it is not proper for Bjork to do this, and it is also considered a lack of commercial ethics from the view of business.

"It's okay for her to have a different point of view, but for her to do this is disrespectful to local fans and the music agency," one netizen wrote about her outburst.

"It shows a lack of professional ethics," Wang Xiaofeng, a well-known music critic, said on his blog. "For a commercial performance, the artist should have considered her agreement with the music agency."

A spokesman for concert promoter Emma Entertainment Company has refused further comment.

Man-made beauty back under the knife

By Li Fenghua

China's first man-made beauty Hao Lulu is back in Maliyu Women's Hospital in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, for another operation.

Since her plastic surgeries, Hao has traveled to many Chinese cities. Over time, her skin roughened and scarred due to constant use of cosmetics, and her on-tour eating habits caused her to gain weight.

Hao is currently in for what she views as "maintenance" surgery.

"Maybe it will take a long time to be beautiful, but I want to pursue beauty all my life," Hao said.

As early as July 2003, Hao went through a series of plastic surgeries that encompassed her face, neck hips and legs.

"Some people choose to get a perm or use cosmetics to be more attractive. I chose plastic surgery. It is a fast, permanent and a scientific way to be beautiful. My surgeons brought a lot of positive changes to my life," said Hao.

Hao said her ordinary looks brought her nothing but a sense of inferiority.

She became famous after her operations and got lots of media exposure. It has landed her two film roles and the opportunity to host several TV shows and publish several books on plastic surgery.

Auctioneer strands owner

By Li Fenghua

A stone collector Li Guangling from Zhengzhou, Henan Province, got a bad shock when he tried to claim his share from the auction of a large rare gem: the company's owner had fled with both the company's earnings and his.

The gem in question was a dark green, semi-transparent, 2 kilogram night-luminescent pearl. Such pearls give off a milky white light at night.

Li was fond of crystal, and often traveled to Guangdong and Jiangsu provinces to source raw materials and collect stones.

One day, a customer from Wujin County, Jiangsu Province, called and said he had been cheated and sold an artificial crystal for 600 yuan. The customer said it was softer than real crystal, and asked Li if he would like to buy it.

Li hesitated, but eventually purchased the stone and sent it to the Gem Appraisal Center of Beijing University for testing.

In the center, experts found that the stone gave off enough light to read by at night. When heated in water to 100 centigrade, it gave off a dazzling light and became transparent. Experts concluded it was the most valuable night-luminescent pearl in the world.

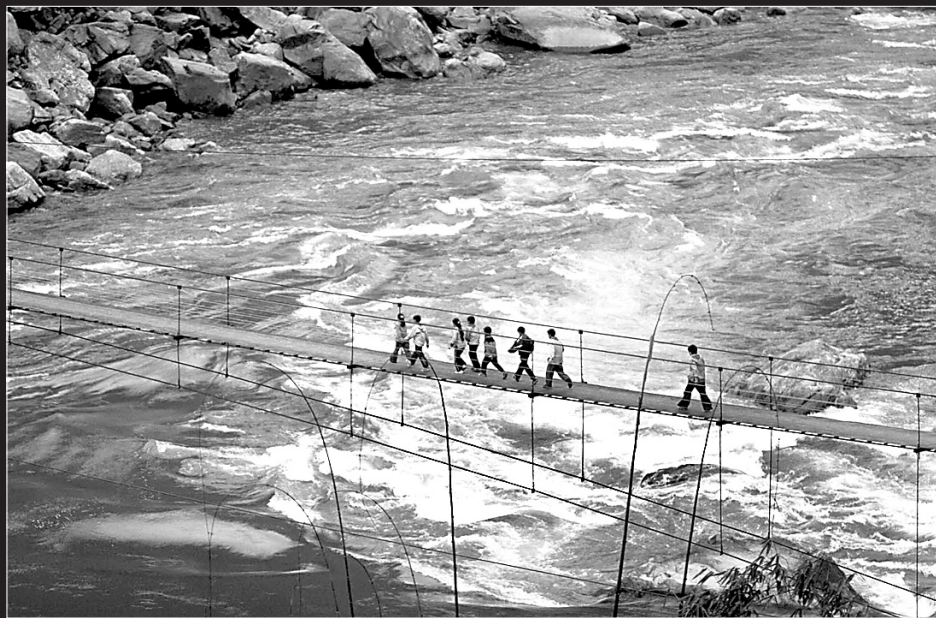
The priceless treasure attracted attention from many gem collectors, and Li was contacted by an auction house in Shenzhen.

According to the contract, the company paid Li a 300,000 yuan advance. If the stone sold for under 1 million yuan, the money would all be Li's; if it sold at more than a million, the money would be divided equally between Li and the company.

When Li heard two years later that his stone had sold for 40 million yuan, and that the buyer then sold it to a French collector for £18 million (260 million yuan), he went to the company to claim his share.

The office told him the head of the company had fled with all the money.

Students get bridge over water



By Annie Wei

Students of Bula primary school, near Kunming, Yunnan Province, can cross the Nujiang river to school on a safe bridge starting this week. Before, they had to shimmy across a rope.

CFP Photo

Wall repairman seeks reimbursement

By Jackie Zhang

Yang Yongfu, 46, a villager in Jiayuguan, Gansu Province, started to repair part of the Shiguanxia Great Wall in Jiayuguan city eight years ago. He is now auctioning operation rights to the public to clear debts he incurred in the repair effort.

In his 20s, Yang was a ticket seller in the Jiayuguan Great Wall resort. "In 1999, the local government encouraged individuals to repair the Great Wall. I was interested in it and handed in my application," Yang said.

The next year, the local government authorized his application. In October, Yang started his repairs. Rocks couldn't be transported to the Great Wall directly and there was no machine suitable to do the work, so Yang hired workers to hold and carry the stones on their backs.

Yang got little financial support from the government, and borrowed money from his rela-

tives and friends, and took out loans from banks.

In June, 2002, his Great Wall repair project ended. He had repaired 750 meters of the Wall.

But, the Jiayuguan Culture Bureau intended to stop Yang's business operation and reclaim operation rights. "The bureau has appraised the Great Wall's value three times. The last time in 2006, they told me its estimated value was 3.5 million yuan. I knew the exact value of the Great Wall was far higher," Yang said.

"In 2006 and 2007, I invested 700,000 yuan more in Great Wall maintenance and management. They did not calculate the money, and refused to communicate with me further," Yang said.

Yang said that after repairs ended in 2002, the culture bureau visited him every year to reclaim rights. Each time, it refused to address the monetary dispute. "I think it is better for me to auction the management rights," Yang said.

"In my contract with the culture bureau, I have the right to repair, protect and manage it. It is legal for me to auction off its management rights," he said.

Yang said that another reason he wanted to auction the rights was to repay his debts. Yang has yet to make a public notice about the auction.

The Jiayuguan Culture Bureau has not made a move.

Wang Ping, director of the culture bureau, said it had negotiated with Yang about taking back the management rights. According to the Law on the Protection of Cultural Relics, it was illegal to ask individuals to repair and manage the Great Wall.

The local department tried to use this to reclaim the wall. "The estimated value is far less than what Yang wants," Wang said.

Yang said he would continue to manage the Great Wall. "I will continue my work and look for someone else to buy the rights," he said.

Gov creates super ministeries



State Councilor Hua Jianmin announced the reform plan Tuesday.

Photo by Lucky Jia

By Han Manman

China will merge cabinet-level agencies into 27 departments, creating five "super ministeries" to build a more efficient and service-oriented government, according to a reshuffling plan unveiled on Tuesday.

This is the biggest government reorganization since 2003. It involves 15 agencies under the State Council and will cut four ministry-level departments, State Councilor Hua Jianmin, also Secretary General of the Cabinet, said in the ongoing session of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing on Tuesday.

The reshuffle

The State Council will have 27 ministries and commissions apart from the General Office after the changes, compared with the current 28.

The move also includes the installation of super ministeries focused on energy, transport, industries and environment protection, housing, as well as urban-rural construction.

The five super ministeries are: The Ministry of Industry and Information; The Ministry of Transportation; The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security; The

Ministry of Environmental Protection and The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction.

"The reshuffle is aimed at resolving long-term problems and contradictions as China's economy grows," a statement issued by the State Council said. "There are three areas being targeted by the reform—strengthening macroeconomic controls, improving stability and bettering social services."

Five super ministeries

The Information Industry Ministry, the State Council Information Office and the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense will be consolidated into the new Ministry of Industry and Information.

Civil aviation, postal services and urban public transport will be merged into the Ministry of Transportation, which will include a civil aviation bureau.

The State Environmental Protection Administration will be elevated to become a ministry of environment protection and be responsible for setting emission standards and curbing pollution.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security will combine the Ministry of Personnel

and Ministry of Labor and Social Security and include a new civil servants bureau.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction will replace the Ministry of Construction.

Domestic reaction

"If government departments in charge of transport, energy and other sectors had better integrated their functions, China could have done a better job in fighting the winter weather disaster in the south," Chi Fulin, CPPCC member, executive president of China Institute for Reform and Development said.

"The proposed government reshuffle, the sixth in 30 years, is not of the biggest scale, but has the farthest-reaching effects in building China's socialist political culture," professor Wang Yukai, from the National School of Administration said.

"It will help create a better investment environment for businesses, who spend a lot of time under the current system waiting for their projects to be approved by several government departments," Wang Linxiang, NPC deputy, board chairman of Erdos Group, China's leading cashmere maker said.

Bygone gov't reshuffles in China

China's reshuffle of its central departments under the State Council will be the sixth such institutional reform. The following are the five major government reshuffles over the past three decades:

1982: The number of ministries and commissions, organizations directly under the State Council, and functional offices was reduced from 100 to 61. This reform did away with life tenure for leading cadres and promoted younger officials, which was hailed as a major breakthrough.

1988: The number of ministries and commissions was reduced from 45 to 41. This reform focused on pushing to transform government functions and restructure cabinet agencies closely linked with the economic system.

1993: The number of ministries and commissions, organizations directly under the State Council, and functional offices was reduced from 86 to 59. The core task of this restructuring was to build an administrative system with Chinese characteristics that adapted to the system of a socialist market economy.

1998: Fifteen ministries and commissions bit the dust, three were renamed, and four new ministries and commissions were formed.

2003: The State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the China Banking Regulatory Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, the State Food and Drug Administration, and the State Administration of Work Safety were set up or re-grouped as new cabinet agencies. The number of ministries and commissions was reduced from 29 to the current 28 after the restructuring. This reform helped strengthen the supervision and macro-regulation functions of the government, improve service functions and clarify the functions of the different cabinet agencies. (Xinhua)

NPC&CPPCC news

No results means resignation

By Zhang Dongya

The governors of Gansu and Shandong Province have promised to resign if they fail to reach the set goal for emission-reduction, according to the speech of an official in the National Environment Administration.

Both the Gansu and Shandong provincial governments bear the burden of increased pressure since enterprises which are harmful to the environment can not go public.

In order to guarantee Beijing's air quality during the Olympic Games, the capital including Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong and Shanxi province will take combined actions to improve the environment.

China will continually take stronger measures on environmental protection and strengthen the establishment of organizations aimed at environmental protection.

Nothing but blue skies for the Olympics

By Han Manman

China is able to ensure good air quality during the Olympic Games, fulfilling its commitment made seven years ago for the Olympic bid, an official said on Tuesday.

The environment authorities in Beijing are keeping a close watch on major pollution indices everyday, including sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matters, Zhang Lijun, deputy head of the State Environmental Protection Administration, said.

"Three indices have met national standards due to years of effort, and we promise the index of particulate matters will also meet the required standards during the Olympics," he said.

Beijing has invested 120 billion yuan to improve the air quality over past years, and the number of "blue sky" days increased to 246 last year from 100 in 1998.

Sex ratio: problem for future spouses

By Wan Ran

"Marriage problems will increase if male numbers in the population keep rising, and the high birth sex ratio is not controlled properly," the chief of State Population and Family Planning Commission said.

In this year's report, the problem of managing the high birth sex ratio is emphasized again. If not controlled, the men who were born after 1970 will face serious problems when they want to marry.

In same age groups, the number of single males is higher than that of single females. The fifth result of the census revealed that the Chinese sex ratio of newborn babies is 117:110, male versus female. A report also showed that the imbalance of sex ratio has become one of the main reasons behind mate selection.

Overseas opinions on super ministeries

The overseas media have paid close attention to the Chinese government's "Super ministeries" plan, saying the new reform will not only better prepare the country for meeting social and economic challenges but also have international influence.

The Los Angeles Times reported that "instead of a dry exercise in government restructuring, this effort could have global implications, particularly if it pushes China to become more energy efficient."

The Wall Street Journal reported that the reform is the biggest in China for nearly a decade and will help the country better cope with problems in the energy sector as well as perform better in environmental protection and financial reforms.

The Australian said restructuring State Council departments will be high on the agenda for the NPC session. It added that



World media paid close attention to China's super ministeries.

CFP Photo

the creation of "super-ministeries" that absorb existing ministries and agencies will be favorable for integrating resources and improving efficiency and is a new step taken by China toward modernization.

Mainstream media in Germany also paid close attention to China's streamlining exercise. Sueddeutsche Zeitung and Deutsche Welle said that Chinese leaders realized the necessity for structural reform.

Singapore's Lianhe Zaobao reported that China's master plan on administrative and regulatory institutional reforms draws up ways and methods to transform government functions by 2020.

It also demonstrates China's determination to accelerate the transformation of government functions and deepen the reforms of government institutions. (Xinhua)

Corruption threatens China's economic edge

(Reuters) – Corruption may erode the economic competitiveness of China by wiping away the countries' low-cost advantage, a report said Wednesday.

The annual report by Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy surveyed the views of 1,400 expats who were asked to grade corruption

in Asia and the extent to which it would affect a country's business environment.

The Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and China were ranked the most corrupt, while Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan were viewed as the least corrupt in Asia.

PERC said that the cost of

maintaining standards and the high levels of corruption are eroding the low-cost advantages of the fast growing economies of India, China and Vietnam.

"Corruption is yet another cost," PERC said in its report. "If governments do not reduce it, the competitiveness of their environments will be eroded that

much faster."

On a scale of 10, with zero being the least corrupt and 10 being the most corrupt, the Philippines scored 9.0, China was 7.98, Vietnam scored 7.75 and India 7.25. Singapore scored 1.13 in the survey, carried out between January and February this year.

Expert comment

By Huang Daohen

The country will show no mercy to corruption, though the situation remains grave, China's top prosecutor said in his work report on Monday.

Jia Chunwang, procurator-general of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, said that this year prosecutors will give more prominence to corruption

cases involving high-ranking officials and big sums of money.

Statistics show that 35 officials at the provincial or ministerial level, 930 at the municipal level and nearly 14,000 at or above the county level were investigated for embezzlement, bribery and misappropriation of public funds in the past five years.

Mu Ping, head of the people's procuratorate of Beijing, said that the occurrences of major corruption cases in Beijing involved more illicit money over the past three years than ever before.

Along with economic development, new forms of corruption have emerged. These forms are hidden deeply and difficult

to uncover.

Some officials take advantage of their positions to do insider trading in the stock market, Mu said.

However, with public bidding and an expert evaluation system introduced to those fields, and government operation under public supervision, corruption could be further reduced, Mu said.

China sets up headquarters for Olympics security

(PTI) – China has set up a state-level body for security of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and prepared plans for any emergencies during the event, a senior official of the organizing committee said.

The Ministry of State Security, the Ministry of Public Security and the armed forces have been grouped together in the headquarters, Liu Jingmin, Executive Vice-President of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games (BOCOG) and Vice-Mayor of Beijing, said.

China had also enhanced exchanges and coordination with foreign securities organizations and increased training for security staff, Liu was quoted as saying by official Xinhua news agency.

"We believe security will be ensured during the Beijing Games," he said.

Athlete keeps cool while wrong anthem played

(Reuters) – China's Liu Xiang received the gold medal for the 60-meter hurdles on two occasions on Sunday after a mix-up over the national anthem.

A bemused Liu was the model of stoicism in the initial ceremony as organizers inadvertently played Chile's national anthem instead of the Chinese.

But he then shook his head as he explained to fellow medalists Allen Johnson and Evgeniy Borisov and organizers what had happened.

A happier Liu took to the podium for a second time 10 minutes later to pick up his gold once again, this time accompanied by the correct anthem.

'Hacker' denies CNN report

(UPI) – The founder of a domestic hacker Web site has criticized a CNN report that claimed he was employed by the Chinese government to attack a US government Web site, a Beijing newspaper reported today.

CNN claimed the central government has employed and paid several young operators of a Web site to attack the world's most sensitive sites, including the Pentagon, in a report named "Chinese hackers: No site is safe" on March 7, Global Times reported.

The CNN report said the interviewees, identified as Xiao Chen, admitted "they have hacked into the Pentagon and downloaded information," and were "paid secretly by the Chinese government" after doing so.

"I have never had access to any overseas Web site, let alone attacked one," Xiao, the co-founder of Web site, told the Global Times.

Hunan dance heads to the isles



Students from High School Affiliated to Hunan Normal University performed a traditional Hunan dance Wednesday. Their performance will hit London's stage March 16 to 20. Xinhua Photo

China watcher Roderick dies at 93

(AP) – Veteran journalist John Roderick died Tuesday morning, friends and family said. He spent his last days in his Honolulu apartment gathering friends for final farewells, smiling and nodding when his condition, weakened from heart failure and pneumonia, prevented speech.

An avid journalist to the end, he wrote his final piece for AP last month.

Roderick was a leading China-watcher for decades, covering the country from its pre-revolution days to the economic reforms of the 1980s. After reporting on China from abroad during the height of Communist rule, he reopened AP's bureau in Beijing in 1979.

Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai once praised Roderick as the journalist who "opened the door" to China for foreign news media.

In 2007, Princeton Architectural Press brought out Roderick's book *Minka: My Farmhouse in Japan*, about the unusual 273-year-old farmhouse in Kamakura, Japan. The house became a show place visited by the elder George Bush, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the queens of Denmark and Greece and others.

Roderick's career with AP spanned five decades with postings in Asia, Europe and the Middle East. China was his passion, and a high point in his life came when, as a 31-year-old reporter, he spent seven months

living among the Communist rebel leadership in their capital, Yan'an, in central China between 1945 and 1947.

The city was flattened by Japanese bombers in 1938, and by the mid-1940s was a dusty honeycomb of thousands of caves dug out of the loess hills on the edge of the Gobi Desert. Mao and his supporters had gathered in the city in 1935, at the end of their "Long March" across China to escape their Nationalist Chinese foes.

In his book, *Covering China*, Roderick detailed how at meals, during dances and in conversations he took stock of Mao, Zhou Enlai and other top Communists – men who would soon rule the

most populous nation on Earth. "I admired the fact that they were trying to do something for the poor Chinese," he said.

Photos from the time show the broad-jawed Roderick wearing a long parka as defense against the desert cold, wincing in the sun as he posed with battle-hardened guerrillas.

After Yan'an, Roderick covered the breakdown of peace talks between the Communists and Nationalists and the ensuing Chinese civil war from Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing.

After his retirement at 70 – premature he later complained – he continued to write background stories for AP on China and the Middle East.

Airlines to be punished for poor service

By Li Fenghua

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) will hand down severe penalties for airline companies caught with a poor service record, Wang Ronghua, quartermaster of the transport section of CAAC, said at a press conference on last year's aviation evaluation.

The administration will adopt five methods to guar-

antee the fluidity of Olympic transport, Wang said. Advanced prizes will be denied if an airline, airport or relevant service provider's poor service has "severe social consequences." It will be disqualified from activities for two years, and relevant flights of the season may be canceled.

During July, August and September, scheduled flights

from airports used for the Olympic Games in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou will be called off if the monthly normal departure rate of the flights is among the bottom 20 indexed airports.

Loading and unloading of luggage will be closely monitored to prevent theft and false claims.

Airlines' applying to expand

their business or set up new branches will not be accepted for the next two years if they have frequent crowd incidents, delays or luggage mishaps.

The evaluation activity includes 16 airline companies which have the most transport capacity. China Eastern Airlines was awarded as best service provider, and has been every year since 2005.

Official urged to curb 'hot' money

By Huang Daohen

About US \$500 billion from speculative investors known as "hot money" is currently parked in China, Li Deshui, former director of the National Bureau of Statistics, said. The information has drawn attention to China's hot economy and its CIP hike.

The hot money - which could be pulled out quickly - has added to liquidity and has pushed inflation to its highest level in 11 years.

Analysts say foreign investors have been getting around China's capital market and pouring funds into the country as they try to profit from the continued appreciation in the yuan and rising real estate prices.

Brad Setser, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, estimates that more than US \$200 billion in hot money may have flowed into China last year, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Calling for influx cut

Li, a CPPCC member, proposed that authorities should cut inflow at the ongoing session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

"More international speculative funds will pour in through various channels," Li told Xinhua news agency.

The large amount of hot money in the country means the controls are ineffective, he said.

Li said that hot money, if not effectively blocked, will worsen China's balance of international

payments, add to already excessive liquidity, overheat the economy, and increase inflationary pressures.

"We shall keep an eye on the gate, and never allow short-term international funds to enter and leave (China) as freely as they want," Li said.

Sun Gongsheng, the head of the People's Bank of China's Nanjing branch, said that the central bank is building an information system to keep track of foreign-currency inflows, but that it wasn't complete.

Short-term debt quotas

The government has reduced Short-term debt quotas and appears set to cut them further.

"As China has decided to keep a tight monetary policy this year, we will certainly continue managing forex fund inflows," Guo Qingping, head of the central bank's Tianjin branch, said. "We will further strengthen the control of foreign-debt size."

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange, part of the central bank, announced last year a phased reduction in banks' short-term foreign-debt quotas, reducing the short-term foreign-currency borrowing limit of foreign banks to 60 percent of the 2006 amount.

The quota cuts have greatly inflated the cost of borrowing dollars. Rumors have it that the foreign-exchange administration was planning to introduce another round of cuts helped raise the cost of dollar borrowing in China over the past week.

Hainan Auto Expo focuses on environment



The Haikou, Hainan Province, environmentally-friendly auto exposition ended this week.

The expo exhibited international up-to-date automobiles with advanced technology in a bid to boost the development of environmental protection technologies in the auto industry.

Photo by Peng Tong

Foreign investment surges 38.3 percent

(AP) - Foreign investment in China rose 38.3 percent in February from a year ago to almost US \$7 billion, the Commerce Ministry reported Wednesday.

Foreign companies are looking to China to help drive sales as growth in the US and else-

where slows, and are stepping up spending on factories and service industries meant to serve increasingly prosperous Chinese consumers.

February's growth was far below the rate in January, when foreign investment more than

doubled to about US \$11 billion. But the government said earlier that the January rise was unusual and probably was prompted by companies rushing to avoid exchange-rate losses as China's currency, the yuan, rose in value.

The figures exclude invest-

ment in China's financial industries.

The number of new foreign-financed projects rose by 38 percent in February to 1,454 compared with the same month a year earlier, the Commerce Ministry said on its Web site.

Adidas recalls flag-bearing products

By Huang Daohen

Adidas' Shanghai office recently issued a global recall of a line of sports bags and polo shirts printed with a "clever" design which merged the Adidas's corporate logo with the Chinese flag.

The products were meant as a tribute to Chinese national pride, as Adidas is an official sponsor of this summer's Beijing Olympics, an Adidas spokesman said. Instead, the products triggered a storm of protest from Chinese consumers, even though they were only sold in Hong Kong.

The recall decision came in response to an outcry from potential customers. As many as 80 percent of Internet users polled by popular portal Sina.com voted against Adidas' use of the flag in its products, and close to 50 percent said they would boycott future Adidas offerings.

The controversial products feature the national flag, with its large gold star allied with four smaller ones in a field of red, on its sports bags and polo shirts. Nestled within the large star is the Adidas three-leaf logo.

Kraft move causes labor conflict

(Xinhua) - Kraft Foods China has been accused of violating the country's new labor law in its decision to shift its company headquarters from Beijing to Shanghai without consulting its employees, most of whom are local residents.

"The company did not ask our opinion before making the decision," the Beijing News quoted an unnamed staff member as saying.

If the company moves to Shanghai, about two-thirds of its 300 workers will lose their jobs, the newspaper cited Chen Baoqing, chairman of the company's labor union, as saying.

Kraft has been considering the relocation since acquiring the cookies and snacks division of Danone in November. It announced its plans on January 24 without giving any explanations.

Li Ning, Michelin develop technical cooperation

By Han Manman

Li Ning Company Limited, a domestic sports brand, and French tire firm Michelin announced last Friday that the two will develop technical cooperation in sport shoes to bring consumers high-performance footwear.

According to the agreement, tire technology will be used to construct the soles of Li Ning shoes for stronger grip and better mileage.

Tycoon calls for tax break

By Huang Daohen

The personal income tax rate on the "rich" should be cut. Zhang Yin, the "empress of paper" once ranked as China's richest woman with a net worth of US \$3.4 billion, kindled heated debate on Monday when she asked the congress for a tax break.

Zhang, also a CPPCC National Committee member, brought up three "pro-rich" proposals at the opening session of the yearly meeting of the National People's Congress.

In one of the proposals, she called for a reduction of the income tax rate for the country's top earners – those making a monthly salary of more than 100,000 yuan (US \$14,050) – from 45 percent to 30 percent.

The floor for the top tax group should be raised to 150,000 yuan a month, Zhang said.

"Lowering the tax rate for top earners would erase the incentive for tax evasion and prompt more of the wealthy to keep their money at home rather than in offshore shelters," Zhang was quoted by the Nanfang Daily as saying.

Zhang's proposal draws criticism from fellow committee members and internet commentators saying her three proposals represent solely her own interests. "She is speaking for herself and people like her, the rich classes in society," some claimed.

Still, the plain-talking female's crusade received support from other entrepreneurs. Zhang Lee, chairman of Deutsche Bank China, also called for legislation to overhaul the high income tax rate.

Lee, who is also a delegate, pointed out that China's tax rates are high by regional standards. Hong Kong income tax rates range from 2 percent to 19 percent; Singapore between 3.75 percent and 21 percent; Malaysia, 1 percent and 29 percent; Vietnam, 5 percent and 35 percent.

China's top income tax rate also exceeds that of developed countries like Canada, which has a top rate of 29 percent; Japan, 37 percent; and the US, at 38.6 percent. Meanwhile, China provides no exemptions or tax refunds, and few social welfare programs for its taxpayers, he said.

Comment

Share the wealth

It was understandable that a CPPCC National Committee member would raise proposals on familiar topics. Of course, it's a question of whether she speaks for herself or for the whole industry.

– Zhang Yichen, political advisor

Touchy topic

No issue evokes more emotion in China than the widening gap between the rich and the poor. Zhang touched that raw nerve.

– Jeffbass, teacher

Zhang not wrong

As a political advisor, Zhang has every right to put forward her own proposals and clarify for whom she speaks. This is her legal right, and it should be protected. We should welcome such political consultants, and hope there will be more in the future.

– Chen Ju, commentator

Wealthy should not whine

From another angle, criticism of Zhang doesn't necessarily stem from the fact that she advocates for her own class, but that it is generally considered unacceptable for the wealthy to call for tax deductions.

– Thomas, engineer

The poor rich

What Zhang said is justified. A 45-percent tax rate is indeed too high for an individual, even if he or she is rich. And I think a top earner, with a conscience and a sense of social responsibility, will repay or contribute to society in his or her own way, instead of simply handing over the money to the government.

– Simon, student



Zhang Yin's "pro-rich" proposals set off heated debate among the public.
Photo by Guo Guangyao



Surrendering or not surrendering your seat is a touchy subject. Photo by Gao Xing

Seat sign stirs citizens

By Huang Daohen

An online proposal to rename the priority seats set aside especially for the old, young, sick, disabled and pregnant on public buses has recently drawn public attention. The striking yellow seat and its "offensive" name are being called an insult to citizens.

The idea of a priority seat is good, but the words printed over it, "special seat for the old, young, sick, disabled and pregnant" are rather rigid, a commentator claimed. What's more, the words sick and disabled could have a psychological impact on patients and the disabled. "They will feel estranged and abnormal," the post said.

Locals also feel there is a need to change the name for the special seat. "Although the seat's name has been integrated into local residents' lives, we should find more people-oriented words," Chen Guiying, a local resident said.

"Why not change it to love seat?" Chen added.

However, on the topic of the controversial special seat, the Beijing Bus Group said it was not the proper time to change it. "The special seat is in fact stating the rights of the five types of passengers named, but there is still a rush to cancel the seats," the director of the propaganda department at the Beijing Bus Group who only gave his name as Liu, said.

"Still, the renaming proposal is a good suggestion and will be used as a subject for study," Liu said.

The Beijing public transport system has been using the five Chinese words, old, young, sick, disabled and pregnant as the special seat's sign since 1949. Every public bus has more than five yellow priority seats labeled as "special seat for the old, young, sick, disabled and pregnant."

Comment

A picture is worth a 1,000 words

Foreign transit systems also have the same problem. However, instead of printing the offensive words, they display priority seating signs showing a pregnant woman, a mother and child and a disabled person. I believe these are much more effective.

– Shirley, secretary

A sign of the times

It has become an unspoken rule. I've seen this special seat since I was very young. So many years have passed, and Beijing urban public transport has undergone tremendous changes. However the special seats are still in place as a tradition, which reminds people to vacate a seat for those who need help. It should remain.

– Wang Rui, local resident

Only the strong survive

I don't think a change of name will work. It's a two-way thing. If you're in need of a priority seat and no one is kind enough to offer – then ask! Only the ignorant would deny you.

– Jack Wilson, student

French opera floods the National Grand Theater

By He Jianwei

A 100-year-old French opera will debut at the National Grand Theater from April 3 to 6 as the closing show of the first performance season.

Le Roi d'Ys (The King of Ys) is an opera by French composer, Edouard Lalo, and was first performed at the Opera Comique, Paris, on May 7, 1888. To retain the originality of the piece, the producers will have 13 tons of water flood the city set on the stage.

In the climax, tons of water will pour onto the stage to fully express the conflict to the audience.

The costumes, stage decorations and props were shipped over from France this January

and arrived at Tianjin. They will be in Beijing this weekend.

In the French opera, the princess must save her country while nursing a broken heart. After fearlessly pursuing love, she discovers that the man she loves is fond of her sister, Rozenn. In the end, she commits suicide by drowning herself in the deep, dark sea.

The last two performances were held 23 years apart, in 1984 and 2007, because of its complex staging requirements.

Before World War II, this piece was included on the list of classic operas in France, but after World War II, it was deleted from the list.

"*Le Roi d'Ys* is an excellent show. Its limited performances

in France have not affected its irreplaceable spot at all," Robert Gonnella who is the pianist and the vocal coach for this opera, said. He describes the opera as an eternal fairy tale, full of truths about life and appealing characters who run the gamut from wicked to angelic.

Stephane Roche, assistant director, said *Le Roi d'Ys* is more refined and less outdated compared to *Carmen*, the most frequently performed opera in the world.

"Unlike *Carmen*, which is wonderful, this piece needs so much more refinement. It has to have a good conductor and great singers. French is already a difficult language to sing, so it's hard

to have something really refined," Roche said.

The story is founded upon a Breton legend about Magared and Rozenn, the daughters of the King of Ys. Both princesses love the warrior Mylio, but he has eyes only for Rozenn. Seeking revenge, Magared betrays her father's city and gives Karnac, his enemy, the keys to the sluices standing between the town and the sea. Just as the town and all of its inhabitants are about to be swept away, Magared throws herself into the sea in remorse. St Corentin, the patron saint of Ys, accepts her sacrifice and the waters abate.

Photo provided by National Grand Theater



The opera is full of truth about life and has appealing characters.

Young Russian crisis survivors treated in China



A Beslan victim received traditional treatment in China.

CPF Photo

By Li Fenghua

Nine Russian children who suffered psychological trauma in Russia's Beslan hostage crisis four years ago have come to Sanya, in Hainan Province, to receive traditional Chinese treatment, to help in recovery.

They will receive about a month's treatment which started on March 4 at the Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Sanya and the children plan to return to Moscow in late March. The recuperative treatment involves traditional Chinese therapies along with entertainment activities, such as swimming, drawing, learning to speak Chinese and traveling to Nanshan's cultural scenic spots. Obvious improvements are taking place in these children both physically and mentally.

It is the second time for these young Russian crisis victims to come to China. In May, 2006, 10 children, with an average age of 13, were sent here and had a month's

treatment. The Chinese government paid about 1.6 million yuan for the operation.

Beslan is an industrial town located in North Ossetia in southern Russia, just west of the border of the separatist region of Chechnya. On the morning of September 1, 2004, dozens of terrorists wearing explosive belts stormed a school in Beslan, taking some 1,200 parents, students, children and even infants hostage after a deadly shootout.

During the three-day standoff, people watched and waited as the captors refused to allow food and water into the school. At the end of the tragic siege, at least 331 people – 186 of them children – had been killed, and over 700 had been wounded. According to an independent investigation report from the Russian government, some of the hostages died not primarily because of the terrorists but because of wrong decisions made at the headquarters.

Incubus pulls the pin on the Light Grenades tour at Star Live

By He Jianwei

Incubus, the five-piece US alternative band, played a gig at Star Live to promote their latest album, Light Grenades at their Beijing stop during their 2008 Light Grenades Tour Wednesday night.

Incubus has a great many fans in China, but it was the first time the band performed here. From its debut offering to their latest, they have made six albums over eight years.

As to the importance of their musical journey as a band, "It has been an incredible opportunity to live a life of pure expression. To remain almost entirely in a creative state of mind," Brandon Boyd, lead vocals in the band, said.

The Incubus in Greek mythology is the dream lover. "We were and are aware of the many differing definitions of that word, but have never really identified with it in any spiritual sense," Boyd said.

Mike Einziger, lead guitarist in the band, presented the name as a temporary suggestion. "We started the group in 1999, making us all about 15 years old. Mike and I had just learned about the mythology of the Incubus. It just kind of stuck, I guess," Boyd said.

They usually wrote 12 or 13 songs and called it an album. Boyd thought the hardest part was deciding the order in which to play the songs.

"We don't argue very much about anything. I truly believe that

one of our strongest points is our sense of unity and mutual respect," he said.

Boyd believes writing albums is akin to taking an annual photograph of themselves emotionally and creatively. "The longer we do it, the easier it is to look back at those photographs and smile at how ridiculous our hair looked," he said.

When they started their band in 1999, they were moved by underground music that eventually became the mainstream music of that epoch. As they grew into their own as artists and musicians, they were influenced by many other artists.

"But in the truest form of creativity, we have learned to filter what-

ever inspires us. I find that most music that becomes commercially successful is usually the least original. The biggest bands, most of the time, are the ones that just blatantly plagiarize their heroes," he said.

As well as the music, they have a charity project, incubusbootlegs.com. Through the Internet, where they sell bootlegs to raise money for charity. "We decided as a band to use our voice to raise awareness and funds for causes that needed attention," he said.

In the distant future, Boyd wants to get lunar sooner and thinks they will be the first band to perform on the moon and will play a show at the Pyramids at Giza. Talk about hitting the heights!



Brandon Boyd makes his debut in Beijing.

Photo by Zhao Zheng

Nia, a new fusion exercise for the times

By Annie Wei

Looking for the ideal exercise regime is an ongoing trend in urban life. After yoga, Pilates and Tai-chi, a small number of people in town are now having fun with Nia.

Nia is considered the first fusion exercise program. It draws its movements from dance, martial and healing arts and guides students to express themselves in the body's way. Two fitness instructors, Carlos and Debbie Rosas, created it in the US in 1983.

The only Nia teacher in town

Jennifer Schwerin, 46, a film director from the US, is the only certified Nia teacher in China now.

She has five students in class today, who are expats living in Beijing for different lengths of time. The number of students varies each time and Schwerin welcomes people who are interested to drop by. She also teaches classes downtown, where the majority of students are young Chinese women in their early 20s.

Experience with Nia

Since Nia is so new, most people are still exploring what it is and are compelled to try it to find out.

They say, Nia is like chocolate, you have to try it to know what it tastes like!

To give people who have no experience an idea, Schwerin explains that it is like a dancing form of yoga and Tai Chi combined.

"At first, I thought it was like Tai-chi," Anne Bernier, 48, from Canada, working in journalism and a new comer to the Nia class, said.

It was definitely not like yoga, she said.

Bernier who has exercised for years really likes running and weight-lifting. Nia is a totally different sports experience from others.

"Exercises like running and weight-lifting only use one part of my body, for example, legs or arms, but Nia uses every



Jennifer Schwerin is teaching Nia at the clubhouse of Lane Bridge, northeast of Beijing.

Photo by Annie Wei

section of the muscle and it connects the mind and body," Bernier said.

Other students think Nia offers exercises in a very different way. People of any age with different fitness levels can do it. To the beat of funky music, people express their movements and enjoy the freedom.

"After several Nia classes, one will gain some self-awareness and realize how to focus on his or her mind and body," an Asian student said.

Carina Millington, 52, from the US, having practiced Nia for some years and said that it helped her lose weight, get fit and stay active.

First workshop to kick off

Before practicing Nia, Schwerin had been doing yoga for more than 20 years. In 2001 she visited a friend back in the US who invited her to try Nia.

"I then wanted Nia in my life," she said expressing her feelings about it after just one try. "It's an exercise that allows you to be your true self." Then she went for training in 2003 and started teaching in 2004. Now she is already a brown belt and she plans to train for her black belt this year.

Schwerin says that Nia is a perfect exercise for modern times because it relieves stress and allows one to be childlike.

It is also used in lot of hospitals in the US now.

However, in China, Nia is so new that very few people have ever heard of it. Schwerin hopes more people will discover it, and those who want to teach Nia will take up training. Then this very joyful exercise can be taught to more people.

People interested can register for Schwerin's workshop in April. She and a guest teacher from the UK are having special five-day workshop.

Go to nianow.com for more information on Nia.

You can also contact the teacher at niachina@gmail.com for more info on the upcoming workshops.

Facebook face to face in the city

By Gan Tian

June Zhang, 25, an IBM worker, usually hurried home right after she finished her job in the afternoon.

However, this day was different. She dropped into Yugongyishan Pub on a Tuesday after work, as the city's first Facebook party was being launched there.

The party started at around 8 pm, with an hour of cocktails. The rest of the time, about 250 people, played games, exchanged business cards and made friends. Marek Griffith, 31, British, the party's creator, mentioned he had

sent out more than 450 invitations via Facebook, and most gave him feedback.

"I noticed that Facebook had thrown a party in the UK," Griffith said, "and I thought there should be a similar event staged in Beijing since it's a great way to network and socialize with strangers." He began to send out invitations to different groups. "I only targeted club groups in town because I thought those people might be interested in this type of party."

At his party, Griffith first asked all the guests to sit next

to someone of the opposite sex. They were allowed to chat for two minutes and then Griffith showed up and asked all the men to switch their positions. In this way, people were excited to meet and greet a variety of new people. Griffith said he had prepared many games but they failed to fly due to lack of time and staff.

Graduating from London's School of Economics and Political Science, Zhang, our IBM worker, said it was not easy for her to keep in touch with her old schoolmates. She had been surfing on Facebook for two

years, and now this new party allowed her to meet people like herself. "I think those who are active in Facebook must be very positive and outgoing in real life," Zhang said, "so I decided to go and it turned out to be a great fun."

She admitted that it also attracted her a lot because people there were of similar educational background. "It was great to see them offline, but the only disappointment was that it was a little disorganized and I thought they should hire more staff," she said.

Event

Charity auction

Artists from the China Arts Association Calligraphy and Art section will paint or write calligraphies and all the works will be auctioned. The charity money will go to the southern provinces that suffered from the terrible snow disaster earlier this year.

Where: Huayi Furniture Culture Museum, 89, Xiaodian, Jinzhan, Chaoyang District

When: March 16-18

Tel: 8433 3220

Cross-Culture Discussion: Workplace in China Today

This discussion will focus on the workplace relationships of a white-collar professional in China today. How has it evolved and where is it going? The talk is about dealing with colleagues, subordinates and superiors.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: March 19, 7:30 pm - 10 pm

Cost: 30 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9 am-6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

(By He Jianwei)

Parties for St Patrick

By Annie Wei/ Wan Ran

The St Patrick's Day March 17 is coming again.

Here are some places where you can decorate some green with you and join in the Irish people.

Durty Nellie's Irish Pub

They are having St Patrick's Day Celebration on March 15-17, with female jazz vocalist, five-men band, exotic belly dancers and more.

Where: B8 North Road East Third Ring, next to Liangma Flower market

Tel: 6593 5050

Irish Party

Celebrate St Patrick's Day with Irish music, food and whisky

Where: Frank's place

When: from March 14-17, after 7:30 pm

Tel: 6437 8399

Irish Ball

Where: Kerry Centre Hotel, Guanghua Lu

When: from 6 pm on Saturday the 15th

Tel: 6561 8833

Cost: 1,000 yuan

For ticket inquiries please contact the Irish network China at: irishnetworkchina.com

Irish Music Night

It has live traditional music from 8pm direct from Ireland and classic comedy upstairs on the big screen.

Where: Paddy O' Shea's

When: St Patrick's Day Monday March 17

Tel: 6415 6389

Francophone Week is magnifique!

By Han Manman

The 2008 Francophone Week that brings the best of French-speaking culture to Beijing will start today and continue until March 24. The week will showcase exhibitions, movies, authors, workshops and shows.

Concerts

As an annual culture week, this year will hold two concerts at the start and end of the week with seven bands presenting twelve hours of great music. Hosted by the Yugongyishan bar, participants will be singing along with Dominique A, Rue d'la Gouaille and Chinatown, then dancing the night away with Dj Otra, Cinemix, DjT2M and Dj Opra Hashimo.

Cinema

As part of Francophone Week in Beijing, a series of the best recent French language movies will be screened at the French Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the embassies of the member countries of International Francophonie Organization. This series of movies exhibits the diversity of cinematic narratives that recent French cinema has brought to the silver screen.

Literature

During Francophone Week, the French Embassy will pay tribute to Women's Writings, and salute three notable women writers: Paule Constant, Max Monnehay and Florence Dupré La Tour.

The literary week will start off with evening readings performed by the French Cultural Center's librarians, on Tuesday, March 18.

On Thursday, March 20, in order to celebrate the introduction of Paule Constant's *La fille du Gouverneur* and Max Monnehay's *Corpus Christine* translations in Chinese, the publisher, the translators and the authors



The culture center at Gongti Xi Lu is a popular place to learn French.

Photo by Xiong Tao

will debate on the subject of the edition of French women's literature (in French and Chinese).

On Friday March 21 and Saturday March 22, an hour with each of the three authors will be staged featuring a dialogue between the guests and the public (in French and Chinese).

Male and female authors will discuss the genre in literature during a round table discussion titled, *Women's Writings: A Specific Kind Of Literature?*

The public is also welcome to meet Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk at the French Cultural Center

and the Beijing Foreign Languages University.

Exhibitions

This special culture week will offer up laughs with two comic exhibitions.

From March 14 to March 22, an exhibition named, "When Manhua Meets BD," will open at the French Cultural Centre.

"BD" stands for the French idiom, "Bande Dessinée" and spotlights the deep-rooted tradition of comics in French-speaking countries, which in many of these countries, has remained the most productive field in

publishing for years. "Manhua," China's closest relative, is experiencing an unprecedented rebirth amongst French speakers, who have affectionately dubbed it, "the 9th art."

The other presentation named, "Comics Country Switzerland," held from March 14 to March 30 at the Xihai Alliance Franchise will provide a glimpse into Switzerland's past and present comedic activity.

For more information, visit ccfpekin.org, or call the French Cultural Centre in Beijing (18 Gongti Xi Lu - Tel: 6553 2627)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I am thinking about getting away from Beijing for a few days, but I don't have the time to travel far. Is it worth going to Qingdao at this time of year? Is the air really any better there?

The air in Qingdao is clean and fresh, much better than in Beijing. The seafood is excellent and the ocean is fine for swimming. You can walk or cycle on the boardwalk along the ocean - it goes for several kilometers or climb Mt. Laoshan. It really is a lovely city.

Do you know of any agents in Hong Kong that can get a Chinese F visa like the agents in Beijing?

The cheapest method is to go to Hong Kong and get the F visa yourself. At the HK airport you will find many agencies that offer one-day service. You don't have to book a hotel. Just get there before 10 am and you will have your visa by 1 pm. You can book a hotel in Shenzhen if needed, which is much cheaper than in Hong Kong.

I have some furniture to move from Dashanzi. I am wondering if anyone knows of someone with a "Mianbaoche" or possibly a slightly larger van in the Chaoyang area.

You can call the Kuaijie moving company.

Its Web site is at: 168bj.net/06.asp
Tel: 6289 8267

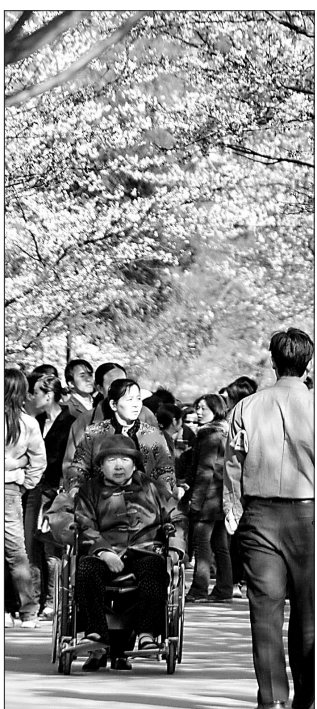
I am coming to Beijing from June 30 to July 5 and am considering renting an apartment in the Chaoyang District, close to East Third Ring and Guomao Bridge. While in Beijing I will do the typical touristy things - The Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, hutongs and shopping. Any thoughts on getting around to these spots?

The area you're considering is fine, it'll be easy to get anywhere you want without too much hassle, either by subway or taxi.

The Great Wall and other day trips leave from all major hotels, or if you want to go cheaper, there are buses from Qianmen, or you can negotiate a rate with a taxi and the driver will wait for you at your destination and possibly take you to the Ming Tombs or the Summer Palace on the way back.

An alternative is Dongcheng District where you'd be within walking distance to lots of tourist sites, but the apartments tend to be smaller and older, and may not be as easily available for short term stays.

(By Li Fenghua)



Cherry flowers attract thousands of visitors every year at Yuyuantan Park.

Photo by Cheng Zi

Beijing's spring sprouts

By Annie Wei

After a lukewarm winter, it's time to go out in the sunshine and enjoy the early spring. Viewing flowers at a park on a leisurely weekend afternoon is a lovely activity.

Jingshan Park

Peruse peony flowers from mid-April to mid-May

Where: No 44 Jingshan Xi Jie, Xicheng District

Tel: 6404 4071

Zhongshan Park

Treat yourself to tulip blossoms from mid-April to mid-May.

Where: West of the Forbidden City, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6559 8285

Yuyuantan Park

Watch winter jasmine from February to April and cherry flowers from the end of March to May.

Where: Xisanhuan Lu, across from the CCTV Tower, Haidian District. East entrance on Sanlihe Lu, south entrance behind the

China Millennium Monument, Haidian District

When: 6am - 10:30pm (summer), 6:30am - 8:30pm (winter)

Tel: 8865 3804/6

Beijing Botanical Garden

Ponder peach flowers from early April to the middle of May, and again from mid-April to mid-May

Where: 20 Nanxiincun, Xiangshan South Road, Xiangshan

Tel: 6259 1431

Magnolia

Marvel at magnolias. These white or pink elegant flowers are commonly seen along Chang'an Avenue from early April to early May.

Other places to enjoy them:

The Summer Palace

Where: No 28 West Road, near Qinghua University, Haidian District

Tel: 6254 3673

The Dajue Temple, located

about 30 kilometers from Central Beijing, is regarded as one of the best places for a weekend-escape. It has a 300-year-old yulan, magnolia tree, which blossoms from the end of March to April. Enjoy the pure white flowers while sipping fragrant tea in an ancient temple on a relaxing trip.

Where: Bei'anhe, Haidian District

The Tanzhe Temple, nestled on the south side of Cudrania Hill in the Mentougou district, west of Beijing. It is 41 kilometers away from the Fucheng Gate.

Jietai Temple

Catch cloves blossoming from April to the end of May in Jietai Temple.

Where: South of Maanshan, Mentougou District

When: 8 am - 5:30 pm

Tel: 6980 6611

Transportation: take bus 7 at Qianmen, 335 at Fuchengmen or 931 at Pingguoyuan

Ancient mask modern audience

The s unm

The commedia dell'arte, a form of Italian comedy, has been popular for centuries. It is a form of theater that uses masks and costumes to tell stories. The actors wear masks that represent different characters, such as the clown, the servant, and the master. The costumes are also very colorful and elaborate.

A few minutes after the start of the performance, the floor with a cello. *Arlecchino*, *Scarlatti*, and *Arlecchino* by Italian playwrights. The commedia dell'arte is a form of theater that uses masks and costumes to tell stories. The actors wear masks that represent different characters, such as the clown, the servant, and the master. The costumes are also very colorful and elaborate.

It was first staged in 1997, directed by Giorgio Strehler, founder of the Piccola Commedia, a servant named Arlecchino to two masters, Signor

The plot is a tale of love with a happy ending.

It begins with a brother in search of his brother forbade him. Beatrice disguises herself from Pantalone, the to use this money to finally wed. But she engaged to another man.

The servant, Arlecchino, is always with them, and is always presents itself to the sole purpose of getting

In the end, with the help of the servant, they finally find each other and are allowed to marry. At last, at last.

There are four main characters in the commedia dell'arte: the servant Arlecchino, the master Pantalone, the



Conventionalized gestures, phrases, exclamations and curses were essential parts of an actor's performance.

The lunch and pudding episode reaches its climax in the second act.

ked comedy amuses ences

story
asked

a dell'arte began like a ritual. An elderly man wearing
t a row of candles one by one at the front of the stage,
w begins," in Chinese. Actors wearing Renaissance cos-
o the stage and danced to music emanating from trum-
and flutes.

later, a boy walked to the middle of the stage, tapped on
ane and announced, "the first act," in Italian.

Servant of Two Masters is a three-act comedy written
ight Carlo Goldoni in 1753. It is a classic example of
arte, a form of improvised comedy and performed by
asks.

aged at the Piccolo Teatro di Milano in 1947 and was
gio Strehler, the visionary Italian stage director and
iccolo Teatro di Milano The play tells the story of a
Arlecchino and how he manages to become a servant
multaneously: Florindo and Beatrice.

typical comedy advocating love, truth and virtue, and
ling.

Beatrice, who travels to Venice, disguised as her dead
of the man who killed him: her lover, Florindo. Her
er to marry Florindo, and he died defending her honor.
herself like him so that she can collect dowry money
he father of Clarice, her brother's betrothed. She wants
y to help with her lover's escape, and to allow them
at unaware Beatrice's brother is dead, Clarice becomes
er man: Silvio, and the two fall deeply in love.

Arlecchino, is always complaining of an empty stom-
ys trying to sate his hunger. When the opportunity
be a servant to another master, he seizes on it for the
etting two dinners instead of one.

h Clarice's and Smeraldina's help, Beatrice and Florindo
other. When Beatrice is exposed as a woman, Clarice is
Silvio, and Arlecchino finds his true love with Smeraldina

r characters wearing masks during the show, including
hino, an innkeeper, Brighella, an old, rich, greedy Vene-
ntalone and a lawyer and physician, Doctor Lombardi.



By He Jianwei

The 300-year-old commedia dell'arte is not dead. It appeared on Beijing's stage last weekend, but it still needs plenty of care and thought to consider how to learn the acting techniques and how to entertain a modern audience with this lengthy performance.

Piccolo Teatro di Milano (Piccolo Theater of Milan) brought its classic commedia dell'arte, *Arlecchino, Servant of Two Masters*, to the stage of the National Grand Theater in Beijing last Friday through to Sunday.

A repeat performance

The play is performed in Italian with Chinese subtitles. Audiences who do not understand Italian may get more pleasure by consulting the program's synopsis before each act begins, in order to focus on the actors as much as possible.

Ferruccio Soleri, Italian master of the commedia dell'arte, still leaping and juggling in his roles, has performed the role of Arlecchino as many as 2,000 times.

Soleri first played the role of Arlecchino in 1960 in New York. Before Soleri, Marcello Moretti had won over a lot of audiences playing the part.

That fateful evening it was announced over the theater speakers that Moretti's part was being played by Ferruccio Soleri. The theater seated 2,000 people. "From behind the curtain, where we were all in position for the opening scene, we heard a loud chorus of 2,000 voices signaling their disapproval of the substitution. My arms went limp and I felt drained," Soleri said.

The first act did not go too badly. In the second act, Soleri felt the audience warming up with the lunch and pudding episode. In the third act, he knew he had conquered them.

In 1961, Moretti died. It was in 1963 that Soleri was told that director Strehler wanted to revive Arlecchino for a special open air show at Villa Litta.

Soleri practiced a lot under Strehler's instruction. "The director would say very sternly, 'Don't make people laugh, don't express anything,' and this made me flip. I began studying the mask in front of my mirror," he said.

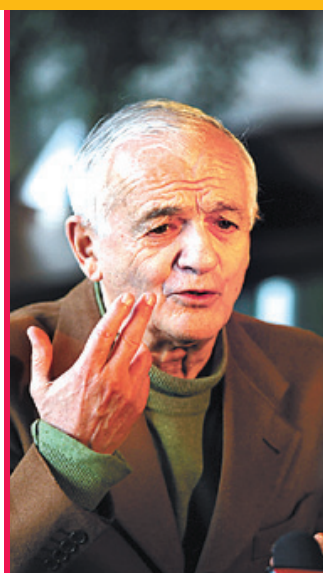
When he performed the play in 1987, Strehler made a remark that Soleri would never forget. **"Fer-**

ruccio, there's something I can't understand. You get older, but your Arlecchino is growing younger day by day," Strehler said.

Several months before the performance, Soleri exercised 50 minutes every day. "I would climb up the stairs of a six-story building three times every day to guarantee my energy to play the part," he said.

During his 2,000 performances, he also experienced some mishaps on stage. He remembered one performance in Japan. "My trousers got torn during one act. I dare not turn my body to the audience or they would see my naked butt," he said.

Soleri said he will play the part of Arlecchino until he can no longer perform.



Ferruccio Soleri



Arlecchino, behind the masks, is 77 years old.

Behind the masks

Commedia dell'arte first hit the stage in Italy in the 16th and 17th centuries, and then later on in other parts of Europe. This complex form of drama relied on the histrionic abilities and verbal dexterity of actors who played their scenes relying on a basic plot line accompanied by a few instructions about how the comedy should be performed.

"Conventionalized gestures, phrases, exclamations and cursing were an essential part of an actor's performance," Soleri said.

Extended comedic rifts called *lazzi* frequently interrupted the action, offering actors an opportunity to display their improvisational skills.

Italy's commedia dell'arte troupes traveled throughout Europe, influencing theatres in Spain, Holland, Germany, Austria, England, and especially France.

When Strehler started to make a commedia dell'arte, he learned how to do it from studying books on the history of the art form.

Becoming an actor of commedia dell'arte is not easy. Soleri spent two or three years to master the character of Arlecchino.

Both the voices and movements are two important elements. When Soleri started to practice, Strehler always said, "Ferruccio, there's something wrong with your voice there. You have to try to find it, strengthen it."

Strehler gave Soleri several exercises to adjust his voice. "One of the practices proved extremely useful; reading a paper without stopping, breathing or adding punctuation, until you no longer felt breathless doing the exercise. It took me over a year to find my voice," Soleri said.

Because the actors wore masks, they had to utilize more exaggerated movements to show their emotions. "If I shook my shoulders, it meant I was crying," he said.

The actors had to be nimble in movement and sometimes needed acrobatics skills.

Although there are some schools in Italy teaching the skills of commedia dell'arte, few people become good actors. "Not many people like practicing continuously. It is easy to master the basic principles but it's difficult for people to become excellent actors," he said.

Photos provided by the National Grand Theater

Master of symbolism and erotic sensibility

By Charles Zhu

Gustav Klimt's portraits and landscapes betray an exotic and erotic sensibility that is replete with symbolic themes and extravagant rhythms. His work has mostly fallen into the hands of two collectors, Ronald S. Lauder and Serge Sabarsky, who are exhibiting their combined collections at the Neue Galerie, New York, until June 30.

Renée Price edited a catalog for the exhibition with contributions from Lauder and others. The catalog of *Gustav Klimt: the Ronald S. Lauder and Serge Sabarsky Collections* is published by Neue Galerie/Prestel (480pp, US \$65).

Among the exhibits is Adele Bloch-Bauer's portrait, for which Lauder paid an extravagant US \$135 million. The work had, in the half-century since its expropriation by the Nazis, been restored by a panel of Austrian judges to the Bloch-Bauer heirs. Dabbed in a free, lavished throw of gold, Adele Bloch-Bauer 1 (1907) is presented with a dazzling impressionist touch. The Vienna socialite at the age of 26 at the time looks at you with her heavy-lipped, dark-browed and green-eyed face. A black blob of hair artfully wound at the top is masterfully meshed with a silver collar and her skinny hands anxiously wrung before her chest.

Also on display is *The Kiss* (1907-1908) which represents Klimt's bold step towards modernism. *The Park of Schloss Kammer* (circa 1910), *Pale Face* (1903) and *The Tall Poplar Tree* (1900) show the masterful impressionist artistry of the painter in stimulating

natural appearance with green dabs, dotted flowers and soft focus.

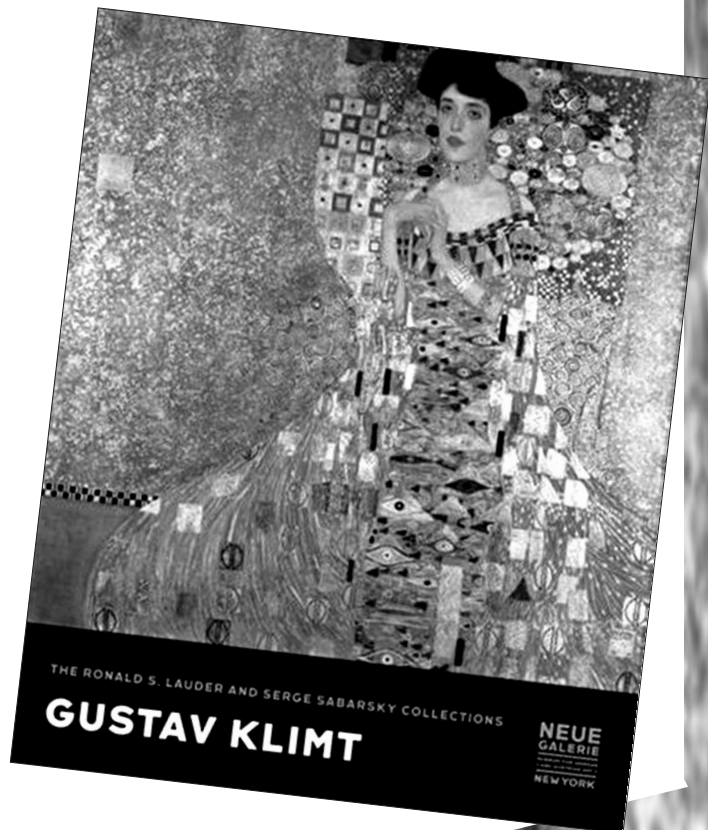
Of all the exhibits, *Schubert at the Piano* is most impressive for its post-Historicist approach. Hermann Bahr spoke of the work in 1899, and said it was "the finest painting ever done by an Austrian.... I know of no modern that has struck me as great and pure as this one."

The later drawings collected by Sabarsky offer visitors a heated sensation forbidden. These drawings were based on an abundance of naked models, casually disposed in "a voluntary hermitage" that "friends rarely dared to enter."

Klimt never lacked a supply of naked models. "There were always several of them waiting in the anteroom, so that he had a continuous and various supply of models available for the theme, 'women.'"

Marian Bisanz-Prakken in her essay talked about Klimt's models' compliant exhibitionism: "With his sure instinct for the nuances of feminine eroticism, Klimt registered the actions and reactions of women who gave themselves over to this intimate activity before his eyes uninhibitedly."

Klimt adored James McNeill Whistler and shared his penchant for elaborately decorative approaches. At the turn of the new century, Klimt responded to the call of modernism and tried hard "to make it new." Klimt's "white women portraits" showed the influences of Whistler in depicting girls dressed in white and surrounded by flowers, known as his *Symphonies in White*.



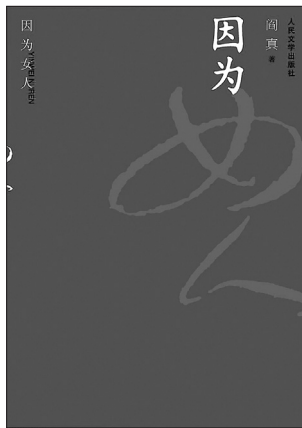
Pursuit of happiness in a society of desire

By Li Jing

Modern women face unprecedented pressure from both work and family in this competitive society. Some arm themselves with an educational degree in hopes of surviving the invisible war. But society continues to witness their tragedies.

Because I'm a Woman (Yinwei Nuren, 554pp, the Peoples Literature Publishing House, 30 yuan), by Yan Zhen, published last December, is a book about one such woman's tough life. Liu Yiyi, a college-educated but still naive girl, strives for pure love and a better life. Unfortunately, she gets tangled up in money, men and desire.

Yan, a professor in Central South University, wrote *A Reflection on a Story of a Chinese Intellectual* (Canglang Zhi Shui),



another best seller, six years ago.

"It took me two years to prepare for this topic," he said. After having seen and heard of much unhappiness in the lives of intellectual women, he wanted to present their tragedy.

Through the novel, he says the tragedy is the result of society, where a woman's value is assessed by her age

and looks, and as time passes, women find themselves severely devalued.

Yan proposed one approach to happiness for women at the end of the novel, but said he is honestly unsure about it.

No matter whether the approach is feasible, it is clear that women need more wisdom and patience to pursue happiness in this challenging society.

About the author

Yan Zhen was born in Changsha and earned his bachelor's degree from Beijing University in 1984. He earned a master's in literature in 1988 and went to Canada, before becoming a professor at Central South University. He has written *Being at the End of the World* (Cengzai Tianya) and *A Reflection on a Story of a Chinese Intellectual* (Canglang Zhi Shui).

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

Shanghai Explorer

By Explorer Publishing, 465pp, Explorer Publishing, 210 yuan

From visas and licenses to housing and health care, the *Shanghai Explorer* is packed with invaluable information for expats living in the vibrant city. The book covers visas, finding a home, the historic Bund, modern Pudong and reviews of the finest restaurants, clubs, cafes and bars.

Bless Me, Ultima

By Rudolfo Anaya, 262pp, Grand Central Publishing, 70 yuan

It is a bildungsroman about a young Mexican-American boy, Antonio, in a New Mexican village during the 1940s. He faces a choice that will determine the course of his entire life: to follow his father's family's nomadic lifestyle or to settle down to agriculture as his mother's family had done. Anaya draws on the Spanish-American folklore with which he grew up in this unique depiction of a Hispanic childhood in the Southwest.

The Thirteenth Tale

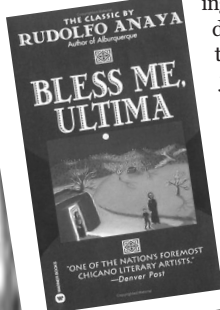
By Diane Setterfield, 432pp, Washington Square Press, 120 yuan

Vida Winter, a bestselling yet reclusive novelist, has created many outlandish life histories. Now old and ailing, at last she wants to tell the truth about her extraordinary life. Her letter to biographer Margaret Lea – a woman with secrets of her own – is a summons. Margaret succumbs to the power of Vida's storytelling, but as a biographer she deals in fact not fiction and she doesn't trust Vida's account. As she begins her research, two parallel stories unfold. Join Margaret as she begins her journey to the truth – hers, as well as Vida's.

CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 8:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

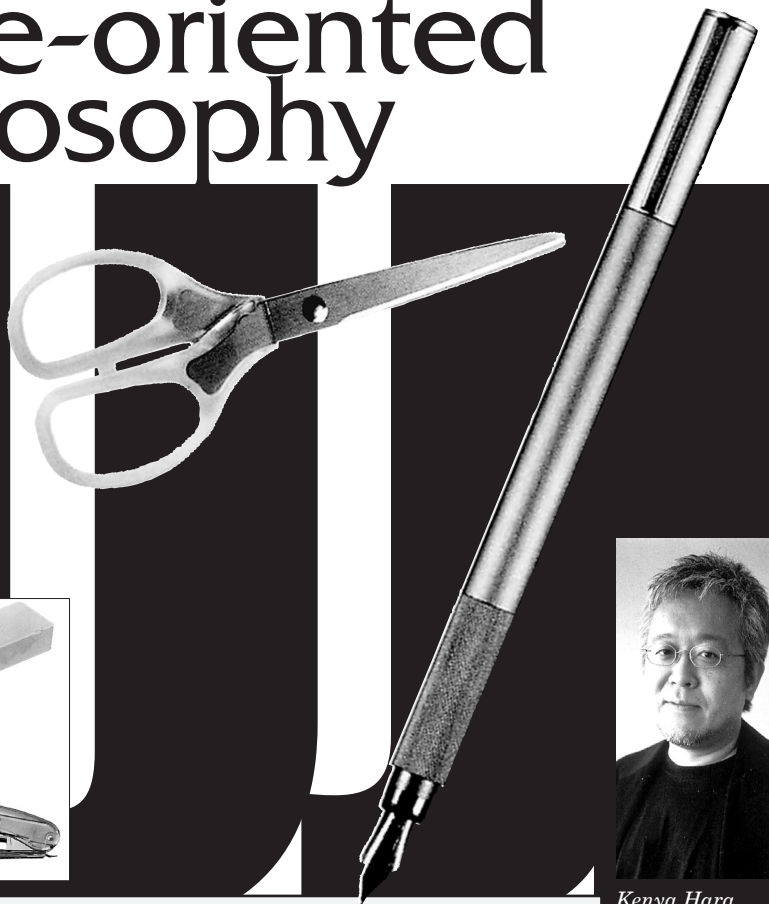
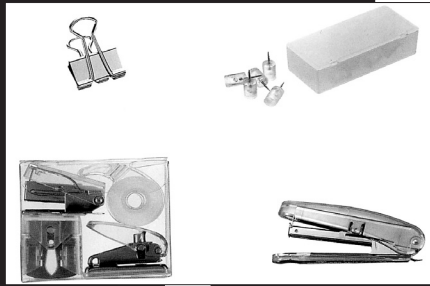
(By Zhang Dongya)



MUJI a life-oriented philosophy

By He Jianwei

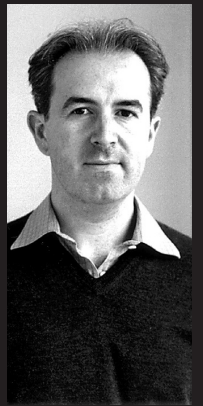
Last Friday, MUJI opened its first Beijing shop at Joy City Xidan, its third shop on the mainland. The Japanese brand had considerable success here. Its Chinese fans believe MUJI is an attitude towards life: simple and natural. *Beijing Today* talked with the president of MUJI about its designs.



Kenya Hara



Naoto Fukasawa



Sam Hecht

MUJI has expanded its product line from an initial dozen offerings to 7,000 items since its founding in 1980. Its catalog ranges from toothbrushes to automobiles, and from food to electrical appliances. It has 20 shops in China, including one in Beijing, two in Shanghai, six in Hong Kong and 11 in Taiwan Province.

"The company's designers adhere to environmental protection and simplicity. They usually draw inspiration from nature," Kanai Masaaki, president of Ryohin Keikaku, said. "A drop of water may give them inspiration. The important thing is to delete the complicated and to retain the simple."

Fans in China share MUJI's philosophy of design and its philosophy of life.

No brand

"I love MUJI's no-brand branding. I don't like products with big logos, which look silly," Liu Fang, an accountant, said.

In Japan, a good design with no branding is almost certainly from the MUJI line.

Ikko Tanaka, one of the founders, coined the term "Mujirushi Ryohin" in the 1980s when the Japanese market was full of foreign brands. "Mujirushi" represents the simplicity of its packaging and manufacturing process, as well as its brand-free characteristic. "Ryohin" is derived from MUJI predecessor Seiyu Supermarket's commitment to provide quality products.

"Although MUJI has no logo on its products, it has created classic slogans like 'Salmon - all parts edible,' 'Undecorated Love' and 'Nature, Natural, MUJI,' created by Ikko Tanaka and Kazuko Koike (creative director of MUJI). All these convey the spirit of MUJI," she said.

Limits of colors

"I love MUJI's simple colors. I don't like too many colors in my room and MUJI's products are simple,"

Chen Di, a magazine editor, said.

In the 1980s, designers adopted the standard colors black, white and khaki. Except for the red MUJI logo, no products are made in colors other than brown, white, beige, black, blue and metallic silver.

"The colors of its products are natural," he said.

Simplicity

"Everything MUJI makes, from toothbrushes to office chairs, is designed to fulfill its purpose neatly and perfectly," Wang Hui, an IT consultant, said.

The production process is also simplified. All of MUJI's paper products are made of unbleached recycled paper that looks slightly yellowed.

"It highlights the awareness of environmental protection and preserves the natural and original design," Wang said.

Famous designers

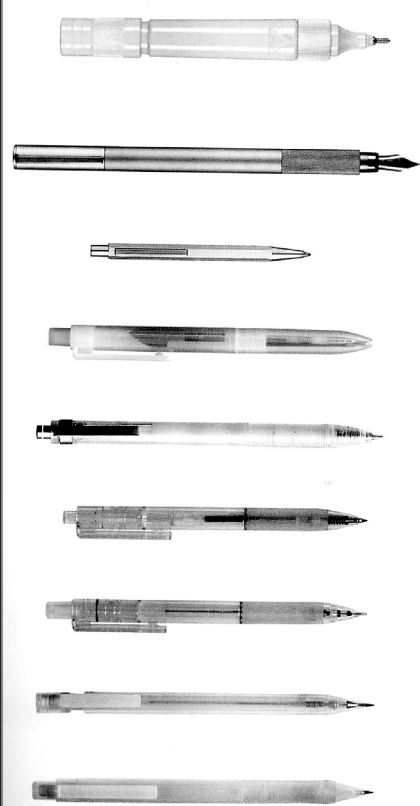
MUJI is powered by a dream team of 15 full-time designers and guest designers from all around the world.

The famous wall-mounted CD player is the work of Naoto Fukasawa, one member of the design advisory board. The CD player won the Good Design Award in 2000.

A seemingly ordinary electric fan is designed by IDEO's former Europe chief designer Sam Hecht.

Most Chinese fans know the designers first and the products second. "Kenya Hara and Naoto Fukasawa are two masters in the design industry. As a student in graphic design, they are my idols," Yuan Yuxiang, a student in the Central Academy of Fine Arts, said.

"I really love Hara's concept of 'emptiness,' which was illustrated in the 2003 Perfect Horizons Series. The idea is that if a person suddenly appears on the horizon, there is nothing there except the human and the surrounding environment, and those are the only important elements," he said.



MUJI's first Beijing shop at Joy City, Xidan.



Photos provided by Ryohin Keikaku

Official word

on local cuisine



Cao Chengzi, Fried Razor Clams
Photo by Howie Yao



Jiangsu

Typical southern Chinese beauties

Yao works in a high-pressure theater company. His colleagues randomly pick someone in the office to treat everyone to his hometown's local cuisine each weekend. That was how Yao found the Jiangsu Zhujiang Banshichu Restaurant.

The first time he went into the restaurant, one thought quickly flashed into his mind. "This is a typical southern country home, the only difference is here it is in Beijing."

Chinese ink paintings of birds, flowers, mountains and lakes decorated the walls. He even found duilian, matching vertical couplets, on some doorways. Each door that faced another room was decorated with lines of small, shining beads. "When I walked through the door, the sound the beads reminded me of a country yard."

Who: Howie Yao
Age: 26
Job: marketing director

"The chairs are also excellent. They are small, made from wood and are totally different from big, ugly northern chairs," Yao said.

The restaurant has excellent seafood. Yangchenghu Lake, one of the most important lakes in Jiangsu Province, is famous for its watery treasures. The restaurant's crab dishes are a favorite of officials during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Yao was impressed by the Cao Chengzi, fried razor clams. "The clams are a little bit salty, but soft enough. You can swallow them whole without needing to chew."

His Jiangsu friend now has already left the company. "She was a nice person to work with, tender, warm-hearted. But every time I think of her, the Jiangsu Banshichu Restaurant pops into my mind."

Jiangsu Banshichu Restaurant

Where: Jiangsu Hotel, 88, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6422 6633 ext 3705

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 9:30 pm

By Gan Tian

Being a government official can be a tough job, especially when called far from your home province for sessions in Beijing.

To provide the higher-ups with culinary relief, each province has its own office in Beijing, usually with a restaurant where officials can enjoy local cuisine when they come to the capital on business trips.

These restaurants are also open to the public, so local gourmands eager to enjoy authentic regional foods can sample authentic cuisine from anywhere in China – for a price.

This week, *Beijing Today* lists some of the very best such restaurants in town.



Steamed Small Zongzi

Photo by Guo Cuiying



Who: Guo Cuiying
Age: 28
Job: PR representative

Zhejiang

Small dishes designed for girls

Guo only went to the Zhejiang Banshichu Canting twice, but was impressed by its tiny dishes.

Longjing Xiaren, a shrimp dish, was her first order. "I was a little shocked when the dish came," she said, "A handful of shrimp on a tiny plate cost 128 yuan?" She knew why as soon as she tried one – they were delicious! She said Zhejiang shrimp is made without much salt and other seasonings, so she could taste the original flavor. "Shrimp in other restaurants is too salty. Here, it was just right – and healthy too."

Guo recommended the Jiaying Small Zongzi, a typical southern food made of glutinous rice and filling rolled up in a bamboo leaf. However, the dish here was a little different. These zongzi were not steamed, but were fried with steaks. "They were so tiny and cute, like a toy. It is probably designed for girls and only costs 48 yuan – not expensive at all," Guo said.

Could small dishes be the secret to how Zhejiang girls stay slim?

"If you have a girlfriend who is on a diet, take her there," Guo said, "Actually it was my boyfriend who found this place. His hometown is Hangzhou."

Zhejiang Banshichu Restaurant

Where: Zhejiang Plaza, 12, Section C, Anzhenxili, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6445 3388

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm



Sichuan

Nothing will disappoint you

The Sichuan Banshichu is one of the most popular in town. "The service is ordinary, but no one can resist the delicious Sichuan food. If you go late during the peak hours, you will have to wait," Zhang said. She visits nearly every day during lunch break, since the Banshichu is only 10-minutes from her office.

"One time, we got a table at 6 pm, but when we finished our dinner at around 8, we saw there were still a lot of people waiting outside," Zhang said.

"The place is difficult to find, but my friends and I couldn't pass up the chance to eat here. I remember when I came here the first time, it took us half an hour to walk the winding hutong paths and find it," Zhang said.

Koushuiji, a spicy and cold chicken dish, is the best in town. "The chicken is so juicy with spicy oils. I never have any left over," she said. Chuanbei Liangfen, a kind of noodles with spicy seasonings, is the second most ordered dish.

Nothing on the menu will disappoint, Zhang said. "Even if you cannot stomach spicy food, don't pass up a trip to this restaurant," She said. Her friend couldn't eat any



Chuanbei Liangfen

Photo by Rui Zhang

peppers, but still enjoyed the Suancai Tudouni, Tomato Mud with Beans, Rice Soup and other light dishes.

One of the reasons this Banshichu is so popular is that the dishes are so cheap: 40 yuan per person.

Sichuan Banshichu Restaurant

Where: 5, Gongyuantoutiao, Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6512 2277 ext 6101, 6512 2277 ext 6200

Open: 10:40am – 2 pm, 4:40 pm – 11 pm

Who: Rui Zhang
Age: 24
Job: media planner



Roasted fish

Photo by Jason Wang



Who: Jason Wang
Age: 22
Job: student

Yunnan

Crossing the Bridge

By Jason Wang

If budgets and time are holding back your big trip to Yunnan, you can at least enjoy the region's fantastic cooking. But finding authentic Yunnan food in Beijing is no easy task. The Yunteng Hotel Restaurant is affiliated with Beijing's Yunnan regional government office.

It is nicely decorated, and you can get a single room – or hut more precisely. The service is decent, and the food is good. It is the place to go in Beijing for Yunnan food and culture.

You can enjoy Clay Pot Chicken and the famous Guoqiao Mixian, or Crossing the Bridge Noodles, which is named for a local legend.

In ancient times, a scholar isolated himself on an island to study for the imperial exams. Every day at noon, his wife crossed the bridge to deliver a bowl of

noodle soup. The only way she could keep the food hot during her long walk was to cover it with a layer of smoking hot oil. Today, the noodles are served in a large bowl covered with a layer of hot oil; pieces of meat and vegetables are dropped in the oil and cooked instantly.

The Steamed Rice with Bacon and Beans is really good. The rice absorbs the flavor of the bacon and the beans. The Grilled Fish is also a must-try. The fish skin is tasty and crispy, and even the bones were edible. The meat is fresh and tasty. The dish is a Dai minority favorite.

The Yunnan provincial office is not easy to find, but well worth the effort. Make sure to have a Chinese speaker in the group, because no one in the restaurant speaks English. There are several dining rooms available, one of which is decorated with giant trees and waterfalls.

Yunteng Hotel Restaurant

Where: 7 Donghuashi Beili Dongqu, Chongwen District

Tel: 6711 3322

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 9:30 pm



Who: Mao Doudou
Age: 25
Job: editor

Xiangxi

Sour and spice

Xiangxi is a small city in Hunan Province. The name "Xiang" is short for Hunan, and "Xi" means west. The restaurant is, appropriately, located in Xidan.

The city is famous for being the home of the Tujia Ethnic Minority and for its beautiful scenery. However, Mao said it is also the home of wonderful cuisine. "Hunan cuisine is famous for being spicy, and in Xiangxi, this spicy taste is enhanced with dry cooking," he said.

Mao recommended Suandoujiao Cao Roumo, Sliced Meat Fried with Sour Beans. Mao said that unlike other Hunan restaurants, all the dishes here have a touch of sourness to go with their spice.

"All of the ingredients are imported from Xiangxi city, and every dish on the menu is authentic Hunan cooking," Mao said.

"Taking a train to Xiangxi requires 26 hours, but if you just want to taste its food, make a trip here instead," Mao suggested.

Xiangxi Banshichu Restaurant

Where: Xiangxi Plaza, 111, Taipingqiao Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 6621 4788

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 9:30 pm



Suandoujiao Cao Roumo, Sliced Meat Fried with Sour Beans

Recommendations

Who: Salina Liu

Age: 25

Job: food editor

Shaanxi Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes: Chishan Noodles, Shangzhou Ciba, Qiaomai, Yangrou Paomo

Where: 17, Beisanhuan

Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6441 3873

Open: 10 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm

Guangxi Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes:

Guilin Noodles, Duck boiled in Beer, Dried Pot series dishes

Where: 6, Shuanghuayuan

Nan Li, Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6776 0911

Open: 10 am – 3 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm

Hubei Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes: Fish in the Pot

Where: F1, Hubei Plaza, 36, Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6217 2288

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm

Xinjiang Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes: cold dishes, yangrou chuan

Where: 7, Sanlihe Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 6833 2266

Open: 10:30 am – 2 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm

Shanxi Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes:

Daoxiaomian Noodle,

Where: Sanjin Hotel, 1,

Xiaxie Jie, Xuanwu District

Tel: 6301 3377

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10:30 pm

Inner Mongolia Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes:

Roast Mutton Legs, Roast Meat, Shouzhuarou

Where: 47, Chongwenmen Nei Dajie, Chongwen District

Tel: 6524 2131 ext 3123

Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm

Tianjin Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes: Goubuli Baozi, Donkey Meat

Where: 1, Xiaohuangzhuang Lu, Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6427 2182

Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 4:30 pm – 10 pm

Anhui Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes: Bean curd Rice, Oiled Shrimps

Where: 1, Huixin Xi Jie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6495 6093

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10:30 pm

Tibet Zhujing Banshichu Restaurant

Recommended dishes:

Tibetan Milk, Mutton Fried with Flour Slices

Where: 149, Gulou Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

Tel: 6401 8822, 6401 9831

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 5 pm – 10 pm



Nightlife

Metal madness at Mao Live House

Metal band Lost Control of Logic presents a metal rock party with Last Chance of Youth, Unclear Fusion G, From Next In, The Falling and Color Youth. It will provide a memorable night for Beijing metal heads.

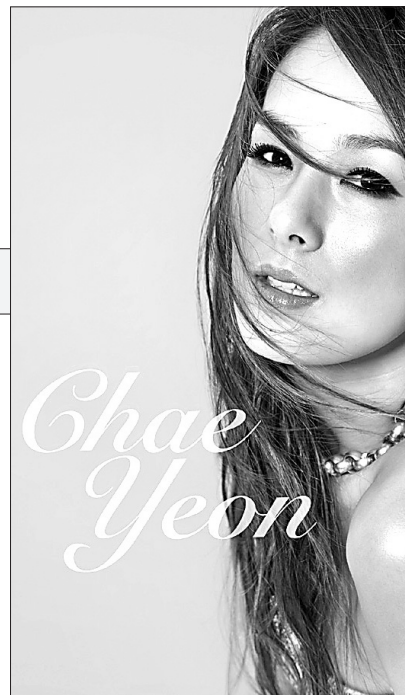
Where: Mao Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
When: 8 pm, March 15
Admission: 40
Tel: 6402 5080, 6402 7494

Chae Yeon Beijing Concert

Dancing queen Chae Yeon premieres with her first Chinese album, *Lover* at the Star Live. This album is jointly produced by a Korean and Chinese music company. It is sure to spark screams.

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 8 pm, March 19
Admission: 30 yuan (advance/student), 50 (door)
Tel: 6425 5677, 6426 4436 ext 13



Dining



Agrilandia Italian Farm

Agrilandia Italian Farm has a promotion whereby, if you spend more than 1,500 yuan on food and beverages, you will get a night's free accommodation at Agrilandia. You can also participate in organic strawberry picking and a lucky draw.

Where: Agrilandia Italian Farm, Baigezhuang, Mapo Town, Shunyi
Open: 9 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6940 7780

Hotel



Dream Honeymoon at Pudong Shangri-La, Shanghai

A romantic "Dream Honeymoon" package with exclusive accommodations and luxurious privilege is offered at Pudong Shangri-La, Shanghai, throughout the year.

The package offers couples three nights' accommodation at Pudong Shangri-La, Shanghai in the spacious comfort of the Premier Bund Room and Premier Suite. The former is widely recognised as being among the largest non-suite accommodations in Shanghai.

Other privileges available to couples in the "Dream Honeymoon" package include the choice of breakfast served in the privacy of the guestroom or an exclusive breakfast served in the privacy of the Horizon Club lounge, two-way limousine transfers and thoughtful turndown gifts nightly.

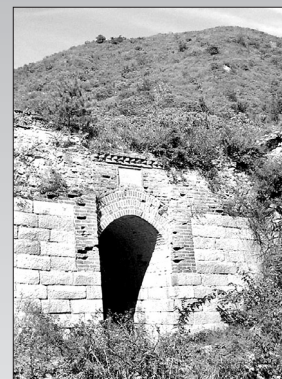
Couples scooping up the "Dream Honeymoon" package will also be

pampered with a 140-minute Yin Yang harmonizing massage, which has been created to harmonize and pleasantly balance the flow of chi from within at CHI, The Spa, a sanctuary of tranquillity inspired by the legend of 'Shangri-La.'

Where: Pudong Shangri-La, Shanghai, 33 Fu Cheng Lu, Pudong, Shanghai

Cost: 12,888 yuan (Premier Bund Room), 16,888 yuan (Premier Suite)
Tel: (86 21) 6882 8888

Outdoors



Hiking Big Black Mountain to the Walled Village

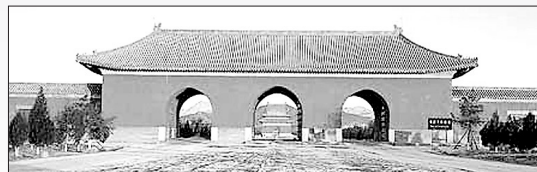
The highlight of this hike is the Walled Village, which was converted from an army barracks for soldiers tasked with guarding the Great Wall. Along the way you will have views of the Great Wall, the surrounding mountains, old pines, terraces, orchards, an abandoned army storehouse and a mysterious mine tunnel.

The hike begins from north of the Black Mountain and follows a farm trail through chestnut orchards up to a ridge. Before heading down the other side, take a short break and admire the view – the Black Mountain behind and the Great Wall in front. After descending, the trail meets a river, where you can stop for a snack.

The next landmark is the two pines that belong to a local temple, where you will travel a well-used path from the temple to the Walled Village, continue through an arch in the Great Wall, and cross fields surrounding the village.

You will take a little tour around the Walled Village – make sure to check out the little gardens on top of the perimeter wall – and then back on the bus returning to Beijing.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)
When: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, March 15
Cost: 300 yuan
Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)



Tour: East Qing Tombs in Hebei

The Eastern Qing Tombs are a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site and the largest imperial grave complex with surrounding natural landscape in China.

It is not a just a tour of the underground graves, but a wonderful walk through the beautiful scenery in Hebei Province. The mountains and trees are well-matched with the awesome spirit way and processions of arches and pavilions plus the palace complex.

The tombs are "home to two princesses, three princes, five emperors, 15 empresses and 136 concubines." Among these tombs are those of the Empress Dowager Ci Xi and the Emperor Qianlong. There are 15 tombs all of which

are far more impressive than the Ming Tombs.

Unlike the Ming Tombs in Beijing, every Qing tomb has its own sacred road with a splendid memorial gateway, decorated pillars and a pair of animal statues. The surrounding scenery is also better than the Ming Tombs.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.

When: 9 am – 6:30 pm, March 15
Cost: 250 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration at CCC is important)

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Organically lifting your lifestyle

By Wan Ran

We not only need organic foods, but the lifestyle that goes with them. Using organic substitutes, keeping a positive mood, and exercising are all ways to adopt the organic lifestyle. *Beijing Today* offers up nine substitutes to help change your home into a fashionable and healthy organic garden.

Orange bath salts

Oranges contain rich Vitamin C, which can prevent freckles. Used in the bath, the skin of oranges can improve the blood circulation and prevent water loss. The fragrance of an orange can also relax and stimulate the spirit. Do not steep the skin of the fruit in overheated water for too long.

Lemon mask

A lemon and honey mask diluted with water can eliminate pigmentary sediment and soften the cuticle to make people's skin appear brighter. Do not smear honey on the face directly, because it will impede the skin in absorbing its nutrition. If the user is allergic, do not use this mask frequently.

Cuke mask

A cuke slices mask can absorb surplus calories and draw waste material from the pores to lighten freckles. Using the mask for a long time will reduce acne. The slices must not be too thick.

Mungbean mask

Mungbean has polysaccharide, which can provide sufficient water for people's skin to make it become more and more resilient. You can apply mungbean powder directly. The product can be found in many supermarkets. The mixture should be three teaspoons of mungbean powder and one tablespoon of honey or pure cheese. If your skin is fragile, you should choose the powder, because the grains are small and won't be rough on your skin.

Nitrogen nutrient

Combine vegetables, the shells of broad beans, and the skins of fruits in a large amount of water. After the concoction has composted, use the upper liquid mixture with nine times the amount of water. This fertilizer can be used in the spring, during germination time.

Phosphate food

Mix the viscera of fish, chicken and ducks, broken bones, shells of crabs, feathers and egg shells in with three times the amount of water. After this composts, use the upper liquid mix with twelve times the amount of water. And it will be better if you use that was used for rinsing rice. This fertilizer can be used on flowering plants. Be warned, it will have some peculiar smells because of its ingredients. You must use containers with covers when you are not using the fluid. You can also add the skins of oranges to the flowerpots to reduce the odor.

Potassium poop

If you mix nitrogen fertilizer and phosphate, potassium fertilizer will appear. Adding this to plant

ash in the soil can make plants grow stronger and help roots develop.

Agent orange

People usually use fragrant agents to eradicate the peculiar smells from their wardrobes and refrigerators. However, many fragrant agents contain toxic elements. Again, the healthiest and most organic way to do this is by using the skins of orange. Orange you thankful for oranges?

Urgent detergent

Commercial laundry detergents, fabric softeners and dryer sheets contain alarmingly high levels of toxic chemicals infamous for causing cancer, liver disorders, neurological disturbances and hormone disruption. There is a new soap called soapnut that literally grows on trees. When clothes are rinsed, the poisonous elements are washed downstream where they remain harmless to the environment. Soapnut contains no synthetic chemicals, fragrance, foaming agents or other toxins.

them love and take good care of them. They freshen the atmosphere, brighten the environment, and add immeasurable energy, beauty, peace and personality to our homes.

4. Phenomenal Fresh air

Open the windows. Even in winter, open a few windows occasionally. On a nice sunny day clear out the whole house.

5. Lighten up

Replace conventional light bulbs with full-spectrum bulbs; the difference is amazing. The improvements in health, including eyes, skin and mentality, is radical.

Five tips make your home an organic garden

1. Go manic with organic

Although a lot of products are very convenient, many contain toxic chemicals that are harmful to our health. So, using organic substitutes is a much healthier road to travel.

2. Shun the shoes

Take your shoes off upon entering the house and request that visitors do likewise. Not wearing shoes in the house is extremely beneficial to a healthy home environment and is also a custom that shows respect in many cultures.

3. Plant a plant

Plants are our friends. Talk to our plants, give

them love and take good care of them. They freshen the atmosphere, brighten the environment, and add immeasurable energy, beauty, peace and personality to our homes.

4. Phenomenal Fresh air

Open the windows. Even in winter, open a few windows occasionally. On a nice sunny day clear out the whole house.

5. Lighten up

Replace conventional light bulbs with full-spectrum bulbs; the difference is amazing. The improvements in health, including eyes, skin and mentality, is radical.



Organic stores in Beijing

Lohao City

Where: 131, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District
Website: lohaocity.com

Classic Rose Garden

Where: Hengji Center, F1, Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6518 1812

Yuansen house

Where: 123A, Guomao Shopping Mall, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6505 6657

Fenliximeng Life Store

Where: F1, Yucen Building, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6506 7708

Photo by China Foto Press

Jinxi's folk revival



Photo by Gao Linsheng

The love tale

Gulian Bridge is the symbol of the town. It is located in the Lianchi Temple, which was constructed on orders from the emperor in 1163 during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). The temple and the bridge are famous for a love story between Zhao Shen and the imperial concubine Chen.

In 1163, Chen was shot by an enemy arrow while protecting Zhao, who then carried her off the field. The two stopped in Jinxi for treatment, but Chen died. Zhao Shen buried her in Wubao Lake and built the Lianchi Temple next to it so monks could read their sutras and help Chen's soul be reborn sooner.

The town was renamed from Jinxi to Chenmu, a change which persisted for 830 years. In the early 1990s, the town's name was restored to promote tourism.

Museums bring change

Despite the tourism boom in nearby towns, Jinxi has retained its traditional lifestyle and a quiet atmosphere.

In 2001, the town invited experts from all over the country to discuss how it could promote tourism. The experts concluded that the addition of museums could better showcase how Jinxi is different from its neighbors.

At that time, there was only a museum of ancient bricks and tiles in Jinxi. The town started to collect cultural relics, and at present, has 14 community museums.

These museums are so classified because all the items exhibited are provided by civilian collectors who retain their property rights.

The museums are managed by Jinxi Tourism Development, which provides exhibition rooms and employees. Some of the items are for sale, and any profits will be split between the company and the item's owner.

Collectors from all over China have rushed to the town. Xue Rensheng from Suzhou opened an antique museum; Huang Fengzi from Xuzhou opened an ancient coin museum and Makun from Wuhan opened a museum featuring collections of Cultural Revolution.

Xue displays the 4,500 items he has collected in his 72 years. Every day, he meets many tourists and explains the story of each item.

In 1997, Xue owned an antique shop in Tongli town, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. As he amassed more and more antiques, he considered opening a museum but could not find a place big enough. In 2001, when Jinxi started its community museum program, it invited Xue to come and open his museum.

"I hope to establish a memorial after I die," Xue said, "There are more than 1,500 pieces I have yet to show, and they will need at least another 5,000 square meters of museum space."

Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces are known for ancient towns like Tongli, Zhouzhuang, Wuzhen and Xitang, but Jinxi in Kunshan, Jiangsu Province, is a newcomer to the public eye despite its ancient origins.

The emergence of folk museums has pulled the sleepy old town into the public eye, and collectors from all over the country are rushing to stake a claim in its heritage.



Local people can take you to tour the town by boat.

Huang Fengzi, owner of the ancient coin museum, never imagined starting his own museum. In the 1960s, he graduated from Wuhan University's history department and was sent to work in the Huaiyin steel factory in Jiangsu Province. His work was to classify gold, silver, bronze and iron. He was sad about all the coins that would end up melted down, and decided to go out to hunt for ancient coins and paper currency.

In 2001, Huang worked in Xuzhou Museum. A student of his, who was the council secretary of Kunshan, met him and invited him to open a museum in Jinxi. Coins collected in Huang's museum range from Qin Dynasty (201 BC to 206 BC) to present day, including coins from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and foreign countries.

List of museums

China Ancient Bricks and Tiles Museum

A Qing-style house in the middle of Shangtang Street. It opened to the public in 1998 and displays 2,300 ancient bricks and tiles from more than 5,000 years of history.

Antique Museum

Located on the south side of the west end of Zong'an Bridge's. It opened in 2001 and displays 19 kinds of antiques.

Zhangsheng Art Museum

At the west end of Puqing Bridge in the middle of Shangtang Street. It opened in 2002 and displays the works of Zhang Sheng, a young artist.

Ming and Qing Furniture Museum

It is located in the middle of Xiatang Street. It opened in 2004 and displays 200 pieces of Ming and Qing furniture.

Huaxia Planetarium

On the south side of Zhongtang Bridge in the middle of Shangtang Street. It opened in 2003.

Ancient Coins of Different Dynasties Museum

On the east side of Jinxi Street. It opened in 2002 and displays thousands of kinds of coins.

Huaxia Stone Museum

On the north end of Tianshui Bridge in the middle of Jiaotong Street. It opened in 2003 and shows one of the four kinds of famous stones in China: *kunshi*, from the Kunlun mountain range.

Dongjun Tree-root Carving Museum

On the south side of Zhong'an Bridge's east end in the middle of Xiatang Street. It opened in 2002 and shows thousands of tree-root carvings, stones and potted landscapes.

Zhongguo Yixing Zisha (purple clay) Museum

In the middle of Shangtang Street. It opened in 2002 and displays *zisha* teapots.

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued from page 20



Photo by Gao Linsheng

Jinshirenjia Seal Cutting Art Museum

Located in a Ming and Qing-style courtyard in the middle of Jinxi Street beside the coin museum. It opened in 2001 and displays 800 items.

Shiyuan Calligraphy and Rubbing Museum

In the Deqiu Hall at the north end of Shangyuan Street. It is the former residence of Lu Shulun, a famous artist and go player. It opened to public in 2001 and shows the works of him and his son Lu Jiaheng, a modern artist.

Museum of Cultural Revolutionary Collections

Located on the south side of Puji Bridge and north part of Shangtang Street. It opened in 2004 and shows about 2,000 items collected during the Cultural Revolution.

Jinxi Outstanding Figures Museum

Located on the south side of Huanggong Bridge in the middle of Xiatang Street. It opened in 2003 and displays biographies and stories of 115 famous persons native to Jinxi.

Lakeside tea

The Jiwu Tea House is visited by almost everyone who goes to Jinxi.

It is run by a young man from Yunnan Province. Its sweet-scented osmanthus tea and pu'er tea are quite famous. Sit by the lakeside and enjoy a cup of tea at a candlelit table. It doesn't matter if you go there alone or with friends.

Four years ago, Xiao Bing, the owner of the teahouse, came to Jinxi with his uncle. The teahouse they opened was not luxuriously decorated, but its potted teaware perfectly complemented the town's scenery.

Jinxi Town is different from other towns for its tranquility. The teahouse provides people a nice environment to enjoy a peaceful life.

Average cost: 20 yuan per person

Tel: 0512-5722 5037

Food

Several popular dishes are popular with Jinxi tourists. Jiangsu and Zhejiang people love to eat elongate bitterling, a kind of small fish that is usually fried. The bayu, an immature rabbitfish, is also popular. Since the poison gland is not matured in young fish, bayu are safe to eat. Locals eat Bayu in

“Collectors from all over China have rushed to the town. Xue Ren-sheng from Suzhou opened an antique museum; Huang Fengzi from Xuzhou opened an ancient coin museum and Makun from Wuhan opened a museum featuring collections of Cultural Revolution.”

“Its (The Jiwu Tea House) sweet-scented osmanthus tea and pu'er tea are quite famous. Sit by the lakeside and enjoy a cup of tea at a candlelit table. It doesn't matter if you go there alone or with friends.”

two ways: either soup, or as a braised fish.

Wadisu, loosely translated as sock bottom crisp, is a typical Jinxi snack. Jinxi people created it in imitation of imperial cooking during the Southern Song Dynasty. Wadisu is thin like the bottom of a sock. Although the name sounds a little disgusting, it is sweet and salty. It is famous in Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Jinxi food is inexpensive, and it will rarely cost more than 100 yuan for a large meal.

Accommodations

Yanyuelou is one of the best hostels in Jinxi. A single room is 120 yuan and a double is 140 yuan with an independent washroom, TV and air conditioner. Rooms have a view of the Lianchi Temple outside. They are big, clean and bright.

Tel: 0512-5723 1874, 13776357703

Another one is **Renmin Hostel**, at 50 yuan per room.

Tel: 0512-57236882, 0512-50236153

Local residents' also rent out their rooms. A standard double room is about 70 yuan. Local residences are quieter and do not come with the cries of noisy hawkers to wake you in the morning.

There is also a rest home for old people, **Yileyuan**. A total of 40 yuan will get you three meals a day. The rooms are well-equipped, though the bathrooms are a little shabby. Entertainment facilities are available, and there is a tea house beside Wubao Lake.

Tel: 0512-50236153, 13501791761

Getting there

China Railway High-speed (CRH) trains can get you to Kunshan city, Jiangsu Province, from anywhere in the country. The Kunshan Bus Station is located to the right of the train station's exit. Board a bus and get off at the Xinke Stop. The ticket price is one yuan. You can buy a ticket to Jinxi from there for 5.5 yuan. You can also travel to Suzhou and bus directly to Jinxi for 13 yuan.

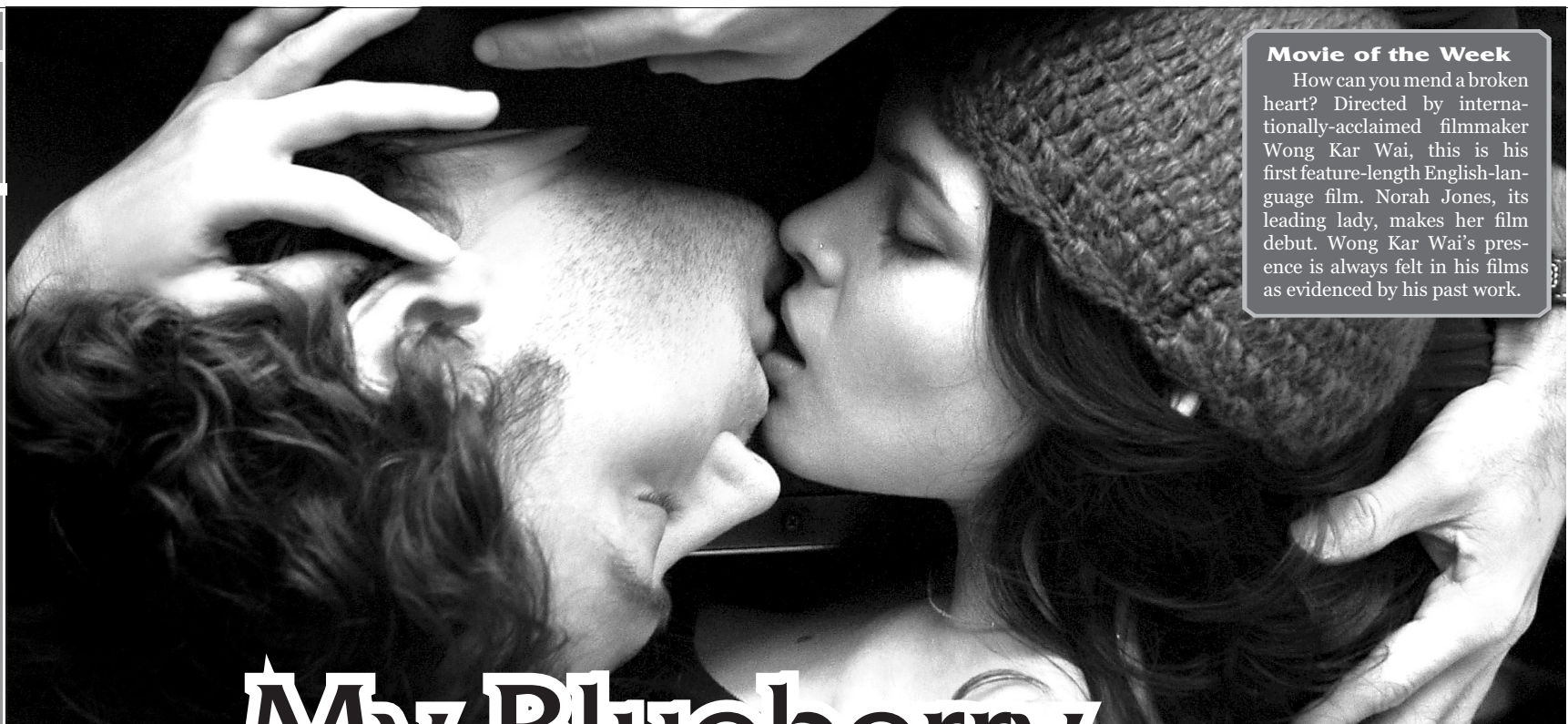
A tip

You don't need a ticket to enter any of the Jinxi scenic spots. The owner of any local hostel can take you to them for free.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Wupeng boats are commonly used in water villages around Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces.



My Blueberry Nights (2007)

Movie of the Week

How can you mend a broken heart? Directed by internationally-acclaimed filmmaker Wong Kar Wai, this is his first feature-length English-language film. Norah Jones, its leading lady, makes her film debut. Wong Kar Wai's presence is always felt in his films as evidenced by his past work.

Scene 1:

Jeremy's cafe – Night

Elizabeth: (*on the phone*) Look! Just get to the point⁽¹⁾ ... Don't ... Don't change the subject! Are you seeing someone else? Who is she? I hope you both drop dead⁽²⁾!

Elizabeth: If someone comes in here looking for me give him these keys.

Jeremy: What do I tell him?

Elizabeth: Tell him he's an asshole!

Elizabeth: Hey, did he pick up the keys?

Jeremy: No, not yet.

Elizabeth: Do you have an extra cigarette?

Jeremy: Sure.

Elizabeth: Rolled it myself.

Elizabeth: Thanks.

Jeremy: You okay?

Elizabeth: Yeah. I haven't had one in a while. I only smoke when I get stressed out⁽³⁾.

Jeremy: Well, you shouldn't worry so much. That way you'll avoid lung cancer.

Elizabeth: Do you think she's pretty?

Jeremy: Who?

Elizabeth: The girl he was in here with.

Jeremy: Oh, she was ok I guess ... I mean. Not the type I would prefer to have my pork chops with, but "each man to his own⁽⁴⁾," right?

Scene 2:

Jeremy's cafe – Night

Jeremy: You're late. Same as usual?

Elizabeth: Can I have my keys back?

Jeremy: Yeah, sure. So ... You two have patched things up⁽⁵⁾ then?

Elizabeth: Thanks.

Jeremy: Lousy bloody camera.

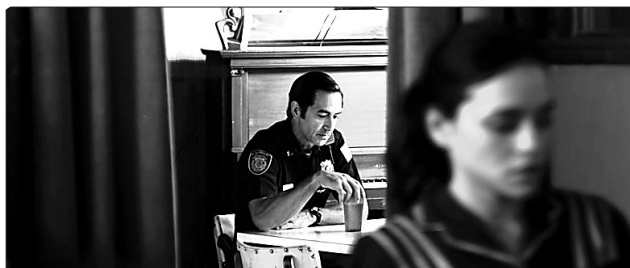
Jeremy: Hey!

Guests: Alright. Come on. Break it ... Alright!

Jeremy: Take it outside. Take

Synopsis

After Jeremy, who runs a New York cafe, informs Elizabeth that she saw her boyfriend with another woman, she embarks on a soul-searching journey to distance herself from a broken heart. Elizabeth's experiences with a series of disconnected strangers forces her to discover new and unexpected chapters in her life. From the grieving policeman Arnie to gambling addict Leslie, Elizabeth's perspectives on life are redefined. Slowly, she begins to let go of the past and finds a new path to true love with Jeremy, with whom she kept contact through secret postcards.



it out ...

Guests: None of your business cupcake!

Guests: Don't start with me, mate!

Guests: Don't you start ...

Come here!

Guests: Right! You come here!

Jeremy: Get out of my place!

Guests: Don't start with me!

Jeremy: Get out!

Jeremy: Hey, you haven't paid yet!

Elizabeth: Can I have a tissue?

Jeremy: What happened?

Did he hit you?

Elizabeth: No!

Jeremy: Well, what?

Elizabeth: I got mugged on the subway.

Jeremy: I thought Pork

Chop lived around here?

Elizabeth: He does.

Scene 3:

Memphis, Tennessee – Day

Lt. Mervyn: Hey Lizzie, hurry up with those damn pick-ups⁽⁶⁾ will ya!

Lizzie: Coming!

Lt. Mervyn: Come on, hustle it!

Lizzie: (*Writing on a post-*

card) It took me a long time to get here, and I'm not sure how long I'll be staying. During the day, I work at a diner downtown. I haven't been able to sleep at night. So I've also taken a waitressing job at a bar. It's kind of a dive⁽⁷⁾, but the tips are pretty good. Working two jobs is exhausting. But at least it keeps me busy. And most importantly, it keeps my mind away from him.

Scene 4:

Travis's pub – Night

Lizzie: What are you celebrating?

Arnie: My last night of drinking!

Travis: He's not giving you a hard time⁽⁸⁾, is he?

Lizzie: I think he just wants to talk.

Travis: That's funny, 'cause he almost never wants to talk.

He's not hitting on⁽⁹⁾ you, is he?

Lizzie: No. I don't think it's like that.

Travis: It's too bad. Be nice to see him take an interest in a woman.

Lizzie: I thought he was married.

Travis: Yeah, that's precisely the problem. He still thinks he is.



Travis: Holy shit!

Sue Lynne: Travis, how's it hanging?

Travis: Always a pleasure, Sue Lynne.

Sue Lynne: You always say that to me, and I never know whether you mean it. I'm just dropping in⁽¹⁰⁾ to use the ladies' room.

Sue Lynne: Do I have to buy a beer first?

Travis: Your money's no good here, Sue Lynne.

Arnie: Have you got a moment?

Sue Lynne: I got nothing to say to you.

Lizzie: Arnie? Arnie?

Arnie: Yeah?

Lizzie: I know it's none of my business. But have you ever thought about cutting back⁽¹¹⁾.

Arnie: Have I thought about it?

Lizzie: What are these?

Arnie: A group I go to sometimes, Lizzie, that has this system. After a meeting, they

invite the new people to come down and pick up a white chip.

You take it as a symbol of your intention to stay sober. And if

you slip up⁽¹²⁾ and drink again you got to come back and pick up another chip.

Vocabulary

- 1. get to the point:** speak about the most important or urgent matter
- 2. drop dead:** slang meaning, don't bother me
- 3. get stressed out:** overcome by pressure

- 4. each man to his own:** different persons have different tastes
- 5. patch up:** to become friends again (after a quarrel)
- 6. pick-ups:** customer food orders in a restaurant ready to be

- 7. dive:** not a respectable place, dirty, run down
- 8. give someone a hard time:** to treat someone severely and cause them difficulties
- 9. hit on:** to flirt with someone

- 10. drop in:** pay someone a visit unannounced
- 11. cut back:** to reduce in size or amount
- 12. slip up:** to make a slight mistake

(By Zhang Dongya)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life.

If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



A bed of roses

By Zhang Nan

When I graduated from university in the summer of 2004, my family finally moved to a bigger house. For almost 20 years, my parents and I had lived in a small single-storey house and suffered a lot during rainy days.

When the three months of interior decorations were completed, we happily started our new life in the new house. We changed almost all the old furniture and electrical appliances, except for my bed.

My bed was bought in late 1980s, when Simmons beds first became popular in China. Chinese people used to sleep on hard wooden board beds. The soft and comfortable Simmons beds became famous soon after they entered the market. Many parents bought the beds for their children.

My Simmons was comfortable and big. I slept on it for 10 years. It was of good quality, so when we moved to the new house, I didn't abandon it. Many beautiful dreams had been dreamt in that bed.

The following weekend, mother bought me a new bedspread with roses. The rose is my favorite flower so I loved it immediately and threw it over my bed.

Cindy, my best friend, is a hostess with Singapore Airlines. She was busy and we seldom got together. That summer, she flew to Beijing and visited my new house.

She was a rose-fan like me. When she saw my bed and the rose bedspread, she laid on it and enjoyed comfort she hadn't experienced in a long time. "All through the year, I

have to fly to different cities or countries. I have to adapt to many different time zones. I've often dreamed of lying on a bed of roses."

"That's easy. Just go buy a bunch of roses and spread them on your bed." I said. "It's not that simple, Jackie. It's easy to make a bed of roses, but difficult to have a-bed-of-roses life."

A few months later, I stumbled upon the phrase, "a bed of roses," online. It comes from Christopher Marlowe's poem, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love", published in 1599. "And I will make thee a bed of roses/ And a thousand fragrant posies / ..."

The phrase has since come to be used figuratively to refer to any easy and pleasant situation – floral or otherwise.

Photo by Maxppp

Hands off the relics

By Derrick Sobodash

Many public notices in China like to use paired phrases. It sounds great in Chinese, but does not always translate well into English – at least not with the same nice sound the original has.

This sign, which could have been located by any old building in the city, instructs readers, "Relic protected, no scratch." It is clear enough, but as usual, there is a better way to say it.

The first line should be "Protect relics," the word *baohu* is used in verb form, and given the nature of the sign and its placement, this needs to be written in an active voice. The second line gets to what this sign is actually asking that readers to not make any markings on the wall, either by peeling off the red paint, scratching it with their fingernails or otherwise defacing it. Since defacing is a catch-all term, it would be best to use that and write, "Please do not deface the wall."

In the case of this sign, such a translation is quite lengthy. The "Protect relics" part is totally unnecessary, as the second line is more specific about what the writers have forbidden. It could be safely removed.

Going back to past Chinglish lessons, readers may remember that using "Please" is a little weak when giving a serious command. Please be a little more assertive and write, "Do not deface the wall." If the sign is intended to be more board, a "Do not deface our relics" will work equally well.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. I wonder whether are they angry at her.

The "whether" clause is the object clause of the verb, "to wonder." It should be in the normal narrative form instead of a question form. So, it should be: "I wonder whether they are angry at her."

2. Hundreds art events

When you use "hundreds" or "thousands," you must have it followed by "of" to indicate an uncertain number of things. In this case, it should be "Hundreds of art events." Similarly, "Hundreds upon hundreds of people follow his example" or "Hundreds of thousands of students took part in the campaign."

3. The principle dancer

Can you see what is wrong here? It seems that English students are sometimes confused by the words, "principal" and "principle," even though they have entirely different meanings. When you say a leading dancer, you mean a principal dancer. Here, "principal" means

most important, leading, chief or main. When principal is a noun, it means chief person or head, for instance, the school principal. The other "principle" is used only as a noun and means a basic truth or belief (The principles of the Olympics) or a rule of conduct (Good character depends upon principles).

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. I wonder whether are they angry at her

You are attempting to pose a question here where you should be making a statement. You are striking a bad pose. It's a simple fix by juxtaposing two words in the sentence, "are" and "they." Place them in the following order and the sentence reads correctly, "I wonder

whether they are angry at her."

2. Hundreds art events

It is fairly obvious what has gone terribly wrong with this sentence. The famed preposition, "of," has gone missing in action here. It is badly needed to make any sense of the example phrase. Place "of" before "art" and your work is done here. The phrase

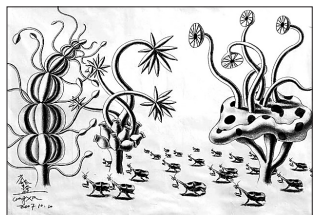
now correctly reads, "Hundreds of art events."

3. The principle dancer

The proper use of the words, "principal" and "principle" can be very confusing to English students and sometimes even native speakers. The words sound identical and almost look the same but have two very different meanings.

A lead dancer is often referred to as the "principal" dancer with the word meaning, most important or main when used as an adjective. As a noun, it means head person such as a high school principal. The other "principle" is only used as a noun and means basic beliefs as in, "The politician stood by his basic principles."

Friday, March 14

**Exhibition****Cang Xin's Mythology II**

Where: Mook Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 10 am - 6 pm, until April 6
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9550

**Movie****De Profundis**

Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5879 9666

Men in Mental Boxes

The exhibition features Wang Jia-zeng's oil painting works.

Where: Gaudi Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Liuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun noon - 7:30 pm, until April 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 6437 7177

Group Exhibition of Photographers

Where: Cloud & Sky Photo Image Gallery, C3006 Brewery Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Upcoming

Concert**Wang Jian Cello Solo Concert**

Who: Wang Jian
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 23
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

When:

Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 5:30 pm, until March 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3892

Stage in April

Concert**China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008 Musical Festival**

Who: Conducted by Long Yu

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 6

Admission: 80-880 yuan

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2007-2008 Musical Festival

Who: Conducted by Bramwell Tovey

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, April 19

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Jolin Tsai Dancing**Forever Beijing Concert**

Who: Jolin Tsai

Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 4-5

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

James Blunt**Beijing Concert**

Who: James Blunt

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo Building, Yonghegongqiao Bei, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 18

Admission: 380-780 yuan

Celine Dion's Taking Chances World Tour

Who: Celine Dion

Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 13

Admission: 300-3,000 yuan

Drama**Hamlet**

Who: British TNT Theater

Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian

When: 7 pm, April 18-20

Admission: 20-150 yuan

Like Shadows

Who: directed by Lai Shengchuan

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm, April 4-5

Admission: 100-680 yuan

King

Who: Theater National de Toulouse

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, April 3-6

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

(By Li Jing)

Saturday, March 15

Exhibition**Renee Cox - Queen Nanny of the Maroons**

Jamaican-born Artist Renee Cox brings the compelling story of Jamaica's only national heroine, Queen Nanny of the Maroons in the exhibition of photographs.

Where: Two Lines Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun noon - 6 pm, until March 30

Admission: free

Tel: 8459 9423

Thoughts Flasher

zhuang, Chaoyang

Featuring works by Cheng Hai, Han Shihua, Tan Yongshi

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cuige-

When:

Tue-Sun 9:30

am - 6:30 pm, until April 1

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 6755

Vanish Scene - Li Lin Solo Exhibition

The exhibition consists of Wetland and Artificial Landscape, two photographic series that he finished almost simultaneously. These two parts constitute an interactive scene, providing us with an interesting and meaningful topic.

Where: 798photogallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am - 6 pm until March 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 1784, 6437 5284

Movie**La Grande Séduction**

A small company wants to build a factory on an island, but only if a full-time

doctor lives in St. Marie. The situation seems hopeless until a young doctor in Montreal has an unfortunate incident with a traffic cop and finds himself on a boat to the faraway village.



Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission:

10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Sunday, March 16

Exhibition**Self-Experience - Young Artists****Group Exhibition**

The exhibition will open at the new exhibition Space A and Space B, featuring Bao Yongliang, Bi Jianye, Chen Yongwei, Huang Liang, Li Yan, Liang Bing, Lin Fangsuo, Lu Zhengyuan, Luo Haiming, Ou Wenting, Yu Honglei, Ye Nan, and Zhou Yilun.

Where: Platform China,

319-1 East End Art Zone A, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11 am - 6 pm, until April 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0091

Power and Jianshan - Zhu Jinshi Solo Exhibition

Where: Arario Beijing, Brewery Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am - 6 pm, until April 27

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3800

Dialogue of Image - Joint Exhibition of Chen Hui and Ryusei Mizuno

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, until March 20

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

Movie**Summer with the Ghosts**

Ten-year-old Caroline travels from her home in Montréal to Austria to visit her filmmaker father, who is on location in a medieval castle. Things start to go awry in

the castle. Special effects are produced by longtime effects director, Otto.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 3 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

